Hafa Adai!

Las Vegas Night raffle winners claim their checks. PAGE 3
Time ticks for those about to lose immigration status. PAGE 6

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BEFORE APPLYING FOR CW-1 RENEWALS

'Wait for CNMI PWS first'

By JON PEREZ
jon_perez@saipantribune.com
REPORTER

CNMI employers should put off applying to renew the CW-1 permits of their foreign workers or petitioning new foreign workers until the results of a CNMI-specific Prevailing Wage Survey are out. At least that's what the Northern Marianas Business Alliance Corp. wants.

That PWS is a requirement when petitioning a foreign worker in the CNMI. Without a CNMI-specific PWS, the Guam prevailing wage survey results would be used, and the NMBAC is concerned that that would raise local wages to the Guam level and negatively impact the CNMI economy, which is still reeling from the effects of Super Typhoon Yutu in October last year.

NMBAC president Alex Sablan said this is their concern: The potential impact of Guam's prevailing wages on the CNMI economy if a

See WAIT on Page 4

JON PEREZ

File photo shows teppanyaki chefs entertaining guests at the Mae Teppanyaki at Fiesta Resort & Spa Saipan in Garapan.

FERDIE DE LA TORRE

In this file photo, the strong winds of Super Typhoon Yutu last Oct. 25 and 25 flipped this car over at the parking lot of the Francisco C. Ada/Saipan International Airport. Yutu's devastation caused major damage at the airport.

16 projects worth $121.2M for Saipan airport

By FERDIE DE LA TORRE
ferdie_delatorre@saipantribune.com
REPORTER

» Repairs due to Yutu devastation at airport cost $25M

The Commonwealth Ports Authority has 16 projects for the Francisco C. Ada/Saipan International Airport that have a total cost of $121.2 million, including an estimated $25 million for repairs due to Super Typhoon Yutu's devastation.

According to a CPA planning document called "CPA's Strategic Planning for CNMI Air and Seaports," the airport requires 15 repairs and replacements because of Yutu's destruction last Oct. 24 and 25.

The repairs and replacements are ongoing and are being funded by insurance proceeds.

Among the items that need to be replaced are loading bridges, the perimeter fence, the bus canopy to the commuter terminal, a storefront window and door, air-conditioning unit, waterproofing, rotating beacon, and flag pole.

Repairs are needed for the commuter terminal, air traffic control tower, the Aircraft Rescue and Fire Fighting training facility, and incin-

See AIRPORT on Page 4

PSS accreditation renewed

By ERWIN ENCINARES
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REPORTER

The CNMI Public School System's national accreditation has been reaffirmed for another five years, according to Education Commissioner Glenn Muña last week.

Muña affirmed that AdvancED reaffirmed PSS' accreditation for an additional five years during a Board of Education meeting on Capital Hill last week.

"Being an accredited institution is something that is honorable because

See PSS on Page 4

Federal officials on island

By JON PEREZ
jon_perez@saipantribune.com
REPORTER

The CNMI right now is awash with federal officials.

Representatives of federal government agencies are on Saipan, including U.S. Department of the Interior Assistant Secretary for Insular Areas Douglas W. Domenech, who was appointed by President Donald J. Trump to lead the federal panel in the ongoing Section 902 Talks.

Officials from the U.S. Department of Health and Human Services, U.S. Department of Homeland Security, and the Occupational Safety and Health Administration under the U.S. Department of Labor have also arrived.

See FEDERAL on Page 4

INSIDE

NATION

The Trump administration dramatically expands immigration "catch and release."

PAGE 16

ENVIRONMENT

Scientists say that taking action on climate change is very much a challenge of the present.

PAGE 19

LIFE & STYLRE

Police on Tuesday arrested a man they say fatally shot rapper Nipsey Hussle.

PAGE 20

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Local

Manglona wins trip for 2 to Hawaii in D&Q raffle

By ERWIN ENCINARES
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REPORTER

In a lucky break for Christine Manglona, she won a trip for two to Hawaii in a raffle draw hosted by D&Q for the first Spam Jam raffle on Saipan.

Manglona met with D&Q's Nicole Reyes yesterday at the JP Centre on Beach Road in Garapan to claim her win. Her winning ticket was one of over 1,000 received during the promo period from Feb. 1 to March 15.

Besides the trip for two to Honolulu, Hawaii, Manglona also won a $1,000 check.

"My daughter [reminded me to buy Spam while doing the groceries] so she threw in the Spam in the grocery cart," she said. "We just ended up throwing in our tickets, not knowing we would win."

This was Manglona's second win in a D&Q raffle. The first time around, she won a 50-inch television with a Nintendo Switch.

Manglona noted that she regularly looks at raffle draws ongoing in the supermarket and joins just for fun.

D&Q sales and marketing coordinator Nicole Reyes told *Saipan Tribune* that the Spam Jam raffle giveaway was held at 12 markets: four Joeten stores, New Sara Market, New Kagman Market, Ming Yang Market, Lucky D Market, Han Nam Market, San Jose Market, and Twins Navy Hill and Twins Dandan.

"[Manglona won against] almost a thousand entries all in all," she said, adding that there are an additional 10 other consolation prizes. Each consolation prize winner gets three cases of Spam each.

ERWIN ENCINARES

Christine Manglona, center, and her son pose with D&Q sales and marketing coordinator Nicole Reyes, right, as she gets her check yesterday at the JP Centre on Beach Road.

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From left, Rotary Club of Saipan president Greg Borja, third grand prize winner Marmy Peter, grand prize winner Ramonito Militante, fourth grand prize winner Leonora Mabutas, second grand prize winner Richard Asuncion, club president-elect Marcia Ayuyu, club member Sean Ficke, and club vice president Brian Clayton pose for a photo Tuesday.

ERWIN ENCINARES

Las Vegas Night raffle winners claim their checks from Rotary

By ERWIN ENCINARES
erwin_encinares@saipantribune,com
REPORTER

His grand prize win at the 2019 Rotary Club of Saipan's Las Vegas Night couldn't have come at a better time.

Ramonito Militante, 75, who had a choice between $10,000 cash and a 2019 Mitsubishi Mirage car as the prize last Saturday, opted to go for the cash prize, saying he will use it for his medical expenses.

The second prize winner, on the other hand, wants to save his winnings.

Militante told *Saipan Tribune* Tuesday during the Rotary Club of Saipan meeting at the Hyatt Regency Saipan—when the winners were presented with their checks—that the money would go to his medical expenses.

"I am happy that God gave me this money because this money will be going to my medicine," he said, adding that he had hypertension, diabetes, and prostate enlargement.

Militante, who hails from the province of Antique in the Philippines., has been on Saipan for over six years now.

The second prize winner, 42-year-old Richard Asuncion, who won $3,000, was initially mistakenly told by his friends last Saturday night that he had won the grand prize.

"I later found out I got the second grand prize," he said. "I still feel blessed to have won."

Asuncion wishes to set the money aside for now. "Every year I buy tickets to support the event. Last year I got four booklets, but this year I only bought one ticket and got lucky," he said.

Marmy Peter won the third grand prize of $2,000 while Leonora Mabutas won $1,000 for the fourth grand prize.

The Rotary Club of Saipan printed about $50,000 worth of tickets. Blub president Greg Borja said that most of the tickets were sold.

"…I think we sold the most tickets this year," said Borja, compared to the last three Las Vegas Nights. "Last year we raised about $23,000 net" but with fewer tickets sold.

"I am hoping we are a little bit higher than that this year, especially with the introduction of the new table games, including our Texas Hold 'Em poker tournament and the three-card poker table," he said.

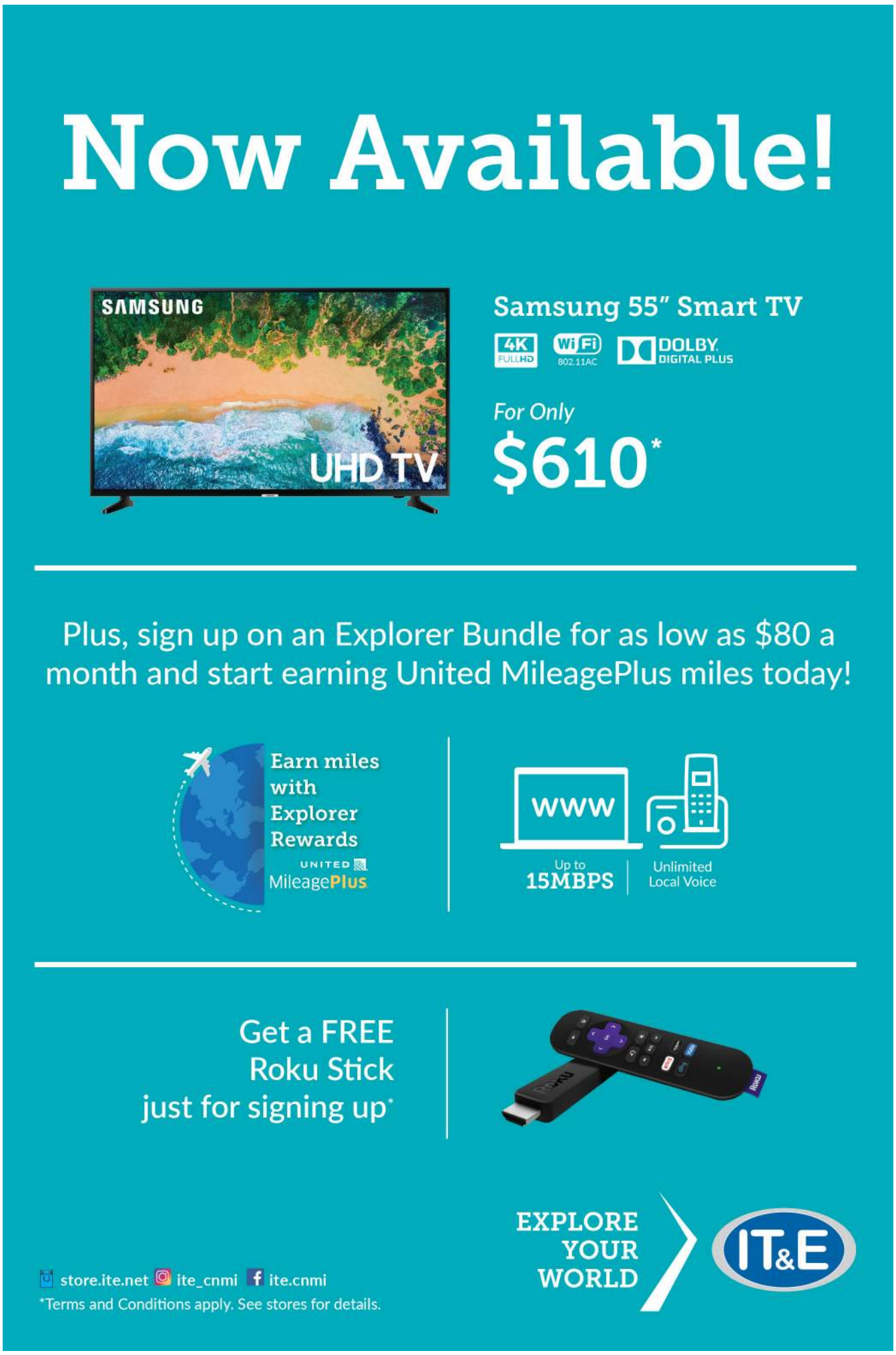
WWII ordnance to be blown up today

Circa World War II ordnance—old bombs, bullets, and assorted vintage war materiel—will be blown up today at the Marpi Blow Pit on Saipan.

In a notice on Wednesday, the CNMI Emergency Operations Center State Warning Point said that the Department of Fire and Emergency Medical Services and men from the Joint Region Marianas-EOD will be conducting World War II Live Ordnance Detonation at the Saipan blow pit today, April 4, from 8am to 12pm.

The public is being urged to stay away from this area within 360 feet radius on all quadrants to 400 feet above sea level during the times indicated.

The Department of Public Safety will close the blow pit main entrance and the back road coming in from Grotto, from 8am to 12pm for the duration of this operation. The Grotto back road will also be closed. ***(PR)***



Hillbroom: It's a go

By FERDIE DE LA TORRE
ferdie_delatorre@saipantribune.com
REPORTER

Junior Larry Hillbroom wants to proceed with his legal malpractice lawsuit against his former two lawyers and asked the federal court to penalize them for allegedly taping his conversations.

Hillbroom, through counsel Rachel A. Dimitruk, filed on Tuesday in the U.S. District Court for the NMI his opposition to Barry J. Israel's and David J. Lujan's motion to dismiss his lawsuit.

Hillbroom also sought monetary sanctions on Israel and Lujan and a motion to disqualify Theodore W. Frank as counsel for Israel. He wants both Israel and Lujan to be made to pay $11,950, accusing them of ethical violation.

According to Dimitruk, the "no contact rule"— promulgated by the American Bar Association as Rule 4.2 of the Model Rules of Professional Conduct—exists for the very purpose of protecting the unwary litigant from being unduly influenced by an attorney.

"While this rule does not bar parties from speaking to each other, the prohibition does apply to lawyers who are parties to litigation," Dimitruk said.

He said Israel and Lujan violated this fundamental rule and, with Frank's participation, have flaunted their unethical conduct in front of the court.

Vietnam-based lawyer Israel has re-filed his motion for the federal court to dismiss Hillbroom's lawsuit against him and Guam lawyer Lujan.

Israel, through counsel Frank, asserted that the court should dismiss the lawsuit based on Hillbroom's stated decision that he no longer wish to proceed with this case.

Alternatively, Israel asked the court to hold a hearing on this issue as soon as possible.

Lujan joined in Israel's motion.

In re-filing the motion to dismiss, Frank said Hillbroom instructed his counsel as early as Feb. 2 to drop the lawsuit but his counsel has not yet complied with his instruction.

In Hillbroom's opposition to the motion to dismiss, Dimitruk said that, based on their improper and unethical conversations with Hillbroom, Israel and Lujan now claim to be "protecting" Hillbroom's "wishes" and have now filed a motion to dismiss the action based on that unethical communication.

"What the defendants have done and what they are attempting to do, with the assistance of Mr. Frank, is sanctionable conduct that should not be condoned by this court," Dimitruk said.

Dimitruk said the transcripts of the phone calls between Hillbroom and Lujan make it clear that the latter did not ask permission to record the conversations with Hillbroom.

"There is no dispute that, where it is illegal to record a conversation without the consent of all of the parties, such a recording is unethical as well," the lawyer said.

Dimitruk said the re-filing of the motion to dismiss is an unethical attempt to dispose of the case by taking advantage of an individual with a history of drug abuse who has struggled with sobriety, and from childhood looked up to these defendants as his "protectors."

The lawyer said the court should sanction Israel and Lujan in the amount of $11,750 in attorney's fee and $200 in costs for cancellation of the deposition for a total of $11,950.

In his lawsuit, Hillbroom alleged that Israel and Lujan conspired with a former trustee to inflate their attorneys' contingency fee when the fortune of the late business tycoon and DHL co-founder Larry Hillblom was still undergoing probate proceedings in Superior Court.

Israel and Lujan served as counsel for Hillbroom in the probate matter.

Hillbroom is one of the four DNA-proven children of Hillblom. His name is spelled differently from that of Hillblom.

WAIT

From Page 1

CNMI PWS is not completed in time for CW-1 renewals.

He pointed out that businesses are currently struggling, with the CNMI's tourism market down 30 percent.

That concern for the need for a CNMI PWS is on top of the uncertainty of the time it'll take to process CW-1 applications "with the new requirement for a U.S. [Department] of Labor prevailing wage determination and certification, then a U.S. [Citizenship and Immigration Services] application process within the limited time period for renewals."

The results of the PWS will become the basis of the U.S. Department of Labor in issuing temporary labor certification to CNMI employers who would petition or renew the employment contracts of foreign workers under the CNMI-Only Transitional Worker program. The Office of Foreign Labor Certification had already released a 24-page list that contained hourly or annual wages for the likes of chief executives, cooks, food servers, engineers, teachers, and farmers.

Saipan Chamber of Commerce president Velma Palacios has spoken to some of their members and she said they are concerned "about how long they should wait before submitting the renewal [applications]."

That's why, Sablan said, NMBAC is recommending for employers to wait for the results of the CNMI PWS. "Everyone applying for CW-1 visa applicant's [should] consider waiting for the CNMI PWS to be completed and posted to the CNMI Department of Commerce, then apply for a wage determination with the U.S. DoL."

Educational campaign

Sablan and Palacios said their groups have been working with the local government in disseminating information about the new policies and regulations.

"I believe the policies are straightforward and webinars are being conducted to make sure that employers understand the new requirements by U.S. DoL," said Sablan.

"The SCC and NMBAC have been collaborating with the CNMI Commerce and Labor [departments] to educate the CNMI community on the issues related to early application of prevailing wages for the CNMI."

Palacios added: "We are working with the Governor's Office on the education campaign about the new requirements and also to complete surveys in a timely manner. Most businesses have not read the law and do not understand the new requirements."

The local Commerce Department, with the help of Hive Analytics and DataTalks, are in the process of completing the PWS. They expect to end the survey by mid- to end of May.

"The contractor will make every effort to complete the PWS. It is the data collection which is the greatest challenge and we seek all employers to complete the survey in a timely manner for all their employees, whether CW1 or not," said Palacios.

Kilili's comments

Delegate Gregorio Kilili C. Sablan (Ind-MP) said the local business community could have done the PWS earlier, since U.S. Labor is just following what P.L. 115-218 states. "Regarding implementation of the NMI U.S. Workforce Act, as you will remember, both the governor and the NMBAC claimed responsibility for this law when it passed last year."

"U.S. Labor is now carrying out the law's mandates. Clearly, the business community would be in a better position had the Commonwealth government begun work on a prevailing wage survey as soon as the law was enacted, rather than waiting until now, when the application period is already beginning."

He is optimistic, though, that the PWS would be done on time. "Though I am assured that the PWS will be done by sometime next month, the survey will still require review and approval by the U.S. Department of Labor before it could be used for CW permit applications."

USCIS will start accepting CW1 applications for the coming fiscal year, 2020, that starts Oct. 1, on Thursday. All CW applications submitted without an approved TLC, which is one of the changes made under the U.S. Workforce Act, will be rejected.

Delegate Sablan said the new requirement would ensure that U.S. workers would be given fair advantage in employment. "The new requirement ensures that U.S. workers are not overlooked for the jobs in the Marianas and that hiring a CW worker will not adversely affect U.S. worker wages and working conditions.

PSS

From Page 1

it validates the work that we do and that we meet the standards set by AdvancED," he said in a later interview with *Saipan Tribune*. "…They visited our classrooms and met our stakeholders, students, parents, and principals asking about what is happening."

Some of the benefits of being an accredited educational institution is that PSS is in good standing with grantors.

"We are meeting the services and standards that we are expected to provide," said Muña.

Information about the reaccreditation, according to Muña's report, was received last March 18. The new term would expire on June 30, 2024, with no midterm review.

A 10-member team from AdvancED visited PSS schools in October 2018.

"[This accreditation] shows that we are continuing our work toward…providing the best quality services [for our students]," he said.

AdvancED sent a 10-member team to the CNMI for a one-week visit in mid-October 2018. They collected data by interviewing over 500 individuals throughout Saipan, Tinian, and Rota. The team was led by lead evaluator for AdvancED Agnes Smith.

Smith had noted several infrastructure upgrades since their previous visit to the CNMI in 2013. A total of six recommendations were made to PSS; during their previous visit in 2018, only four recommendations were made.

AIRPORT

From Page 1

erator facility.

The terminal also needs to be repainted.

The second biggest project is the $22-million recapitalization of the U.S. Transportation Security Administration that will allow it to replace its CTX machines, which TSA uses to scan luggage at the airport.

CPA said the design is now underway to replace the two CTX machines located at the baggage handling system basement.

Under this project, a temporary screening area behind the terminal will be built and the existing CTX 5500 machines will be removed and replaced as they are now obsolete.

New CTX 9000 machines will be installed for the rapid scanning of luggage and new computer systems will be upgraded to accommodate the new machines.

The duration of the project is two years and the design is ongoing and expected for completion by June 2019. Construction is set for 2020.

CPA said TSA, which is the funding source, will allocate the funds once bids are received.

The third biggest project is the $19-million runway resurfacing.

CPA said the original contractor for this project is now being sued due to poor workmanship and that plans and specification have been repackaged and are pending approval by the Federal Aviation Administration.

The funding source is the FAA/U.S. Department of Agriculture loan (Bank of Guam) but the FAA will not fund work that has already been paid for by Airport Improvement Program grants.

CPA expects construction work to start mid to late 2019.

The other projects are the $13.7-million passenger loading bridge replacement, the $1-million air traffic control tower, the $1-million runway expansion or new runway, the $15-million departure terminal expansion, the $15-million arrival terminal expansion, the $1.2-million commuter terminal repairs, the $1-million conveyor system upgrade, and the $250,000 Customs/Quarantine office renovations.

The remaining projects are the $250,000 CPA administration office renovations, the $150,000 U.S. Customs Border Protection renovations, the $2-million primary and secondary road repaving, the $1-million main parking lot expansion, the $600,000 overall airport lighting and signage improvements, and the $3-million fuel distribution system upgrade.

CPA executive director Christopher S. Tenorio said the Strategic Planning outlines what the staff and management have identified as priorities that CPA will pursue in the next four years.

FEDERAL

From Page 1

There has been no official word nor confirmation about these visits but independent sources have affirmed their presence on island. It was reported that the federal and CNMI panels met for the second round of the 902 Talks where immigration and labor were among the issues that were discussed. A delegation may also visit the island of Tinian.

Gov. Ralph DLG Torres leads the CNMI panel in the 902 Talks, which is provided for in the Covenant that established the CNMI in political union with the U.S.

Section 902 of the Covenant mandates representatives of both governments to meet and discuss issues that affect their relationship. That series of meetings became known as the 902 Consultations where after the talks the entire panel would submit a report and recommendation based on their discussions to the U.S. Congress.

Work and immigration related issues—like the H-2B visa, CNMI-Only Transitional Worker program or CW1, and categorical and conditional parole—are among the hot button topics that are expected to take a central role in discussions.

Employers use the H-2B visa to hire foreign skilled workers to meet the demand for construction and other development projects in the CNMI.

Early this year, DHS removed the Philippines from the list of countries eligible for the visa program. That decision caused hundreds of Filipino construction workers to be sent home.

Also, U.S. Citizenship and Immigration Services has yet to release the new regulations for the CW1 visa program.

DoL just issued an interim final rule that now requires a prevailing wage and a temporary labor certificate when hiring or renewing petitions for temporary foreign guest workers.

The categorical and conditional parole programs are the other issues for the CNMI. USCIS has discontinued the humanitarian parole program and employment authorization document last December, which could displace more than 1,000 workers and their families in the CNMI.

The conditional parole authority allows Chinese visitors to enter the CNMI without a U.S. visa.

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Time ticks for those about to lose immigration status

By JON PEREZ
jon_perez@saipantribune.com
REPORTER

Delegate Gregorio Kilili C. Sablan (Ind-MP) continues to work on having the two bills that he introduced pass the Democratic Party-led U.S. House of Representatives so it could solve the current predicament of CNMI workers under the parole program who could lose legal immigration status by June 30, 2019.

The two bills—H.R. 559 and 560—hope to address the status of workers under the humanitarian parole program and employment authorization document, as well as long-term workers and foreign investors.

H.R. 559 would save the immigration status of more than 1,000 individuals who were either given humanitarian parole or those who are holding employment authorization document. U.S. Citizenship and Immigration Services discontinued the program last December, but gave these workers 180 days—until June 30, 2019—to secure other immigration statuses.

Those affected by USCIS' decision are immediate relatives of U.S. citizens and other stateless individuals, CNMI permanent residents and their IRs, IRs of citizens of Freely Associated States (the Federated States of Micronesia, the Republic of the Marshall Islands, and the Republic of Palau), caregivers of CNMI residents.

"Rather than expediting passage in the House, as Democrats are willing to do, Republicans have insisted that all formal procedural steps be followed," Sablan, who is still in Washington, D.C. told *Saipan Tribune*. "This puts the 1,039 individuals, who will lose their parole status because of the administration of President [Donald J.] Trump decision in December, at risk of having to leave the Marianas in June.

USCIS gave a 180-day transition window to those affected by the termination of the parole program. A legislative fix could give them legal status or allow them to transition to other U.S. eligible visas. Otherwise, they would need to leave the CNMI for good.

Sablan again asked Gov. Ralph DLG Torres' help to find a solution to the predicament of these workers.

"I continue to hope that Gov. Torres will use his influence with the President to have that decision reversed, so that Marianas families are not separated. At the same time, we continue to work hard to get Congress to pass H.R. 559 as close as possible to the June 30, 2019, timeline established by the Trump administration."

Red Cross Walkathon on April 13

The 33rd Annual Red Cross Walkathon will be held on April 13 adjacent to the Guma Sakman building in Susupe. This year it will also be done on Rota and Tinian.

There will be a 10K, 5K, and 2K course, along with lots of fun and excitement for the whole family.

Participants will receive an event T-shirt designed by Magas as well as sandwiches and refreshments from Subway and the Coca-Cola group of companies.

Walkers who raise $75 on their pledge forms will also receive a free PIC Waterpark pass, $10 Mobil fuel voucher, $5 McDonald's Arch Card and a F'real Smoothie or shake.

For additional pledge forms or event information, contact the chapter office at 234-3459. ***(PR)***

Bench warrant for cop in alleged theft on hold

By KIMBERLY A. BAUTISTA
kimberly_bautista@saipantribune.com
REPORTER

A bench warrant has been issued for a Department of Public Safety officer who failed to show up for his arraignment on a charge of theft.

Koji Maurice N. Taisacan, 29, failed to appear for his arraignment last Monday.

Superior Court Presiding Judge Robert Naraja ordered the issuance of the bench warrant but later agreed to hold off on it at the request of Taisacan's court-appointed lawyer, Joey Patrick San Nicolas.

San Nicolas had asked to be given the opportunity to contact his client and to hold the warrant in abeyance.

Office of the Attorney General's Frances Demapan did not oppose the request.

Naraja granted the request and rescheduled Taisacan's arraignment to April 15.

According to the allegation, Taisacan took candy bars and drinks having a value of less than $250 from a Shell gas station in Susupe without paying for the items on June 12, 2018. The gas station is owned by Delta Management.

AGRI TALKS NMC

Representatives of the Northern Marianas College Cooperative Research, Extension, and Education Service recently met with members of its Agriculture Advisory Council to discuss NMC-CREES' current efforts to build capacity in agricultural production. The council meets quarterly with NMC-CREES to talk about CNMI farmers' issues. In the photo are council chair Isidoro Cabrera, seated left, from Saipan and cice chair Jose Dela Cruz, seated right, from Tinian. Council secretary Tom Songsong of Rota was present through video conference. Photo includes, standing left to right, NMC-CREES intern Patrick Sanchez, council member Jesus Castro, council member Sam Palacios, NMC interim president Frankie Eliptico, council member Kevin Barnes, council member Arnold Route, NMC-CREES acting dean Patricia Coleman, council member Lawrence Duponcheel, council member Mark Flores, and council member Peter Camacho.

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SUBMISSION DATE: MAY 06, 2019 TIME: 09:30 A.M.
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THE CNMI GOVERNMENT RESERVES THE RIGHT TO REJECT ANY OR ALL BIDS, OR PORTIONS THEREOF, AND WAIVE IMMATERIAL DEFECTS IF TO DO SO WOULD BE IN THE BEST INTEREST OF THE CNMI GOVERNMENT.

/S/ EPIPHANIO E. CABRERA, JR.
ADMINISTRATOR, OFFICE OF GRANTS

/S/ JOAQUIN S. REYES
ACTING DIRECTOR, P&S

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INVITATION TO BID
ITB NO.: ITB19-DFEMS-073
SUBMISSION DATE: APRIL 29, 2019 TIME: 9:30 A.M
"20 FIREFIGHTING SELF-CONTAINED BREATHING APPARATUS (SCBA) AND ACCESSORIES FOR THE DEPARTMENT OF FIRE AND EMERGENCY MEDICAL SERVICES"

COPIES OF THE SPECIFICATIONS MAY BE OBTAINED AT THE OFFICE OF THE DIRECTOR OF PROCUREMENT & SUPPLY, LOCATED AT THE FORMER EMERGENCY MANAGEMENT OFFICE, ASCENCION DRIVE, BUILDING NO. 1301, CAPITOL HILL, SAIPAN, DURING REGULAR WORKING HOURS.

THE PROVISIONS OF THE CNMI PROCUREMENT REGULATIONS, NMIAC SECTION 70-30.3-725 AND 70-30.3-730 PROHIBITING GRATUITIES, KICKBACKS AND CONTINGENT FEES SHALL APPLY.

THE CNMI GOVERNMENT RESERVES THE RIGHT TO REJECT ANY OR ALL BIDS, OR PORTIONS THEREOF, AND WAIVE IMMATERIAL DEFECTS IF TO DO SO WOULD BE IN THE BEST INTEREST OF THE CNMI GOVERNMENT.

/S/ CLAUDIO K. NORITA
COMMISSIONER, DFEMS

/S/ JOAQUIN S. REYES
ACTING DIRECTOR, P&S

KIMBERLYN K. KING-HINDS (F0495)
LAW OFFICE OF KIMBERLYN K. KING-HINDS
P.O. Box 520064
San Jose Village, Tinian, MP 96952
Tel. No.: 670-484-1117
Email Address: kkinghinds@gmail.com

Attorney for Petitioner
Antonia C. Okawa

IN THE SUPERIOR COURT FOR THE COMMONWEALTH OF THE NORTHERN MARIANA ISLANDS

IN THE MATTER OF THE ESTATE OF: Raphael Diaz Camacho, Decedent.) Civil Action No. 19-0118) NOTICE OF HEARING FOR PETITION FOR LETTER OF ADMINSTRATION

TO: ALL HEIRS, DEVISEES, LEGATEES AND CREDITORS OF RAPHAEL DIAZ CAMACHO, DECEASED.

NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN that Petitioner, Antonia C. Okawa, has filed with the Clerk of this Court a Petition for Appointment of an Administrator for the Estate of RAPHAEL DIAZ CAMACHO, deceased. The Attorney of record Kimberlyn Kay King-Hinds of P.O. Box 64, Tinian, MP 96952. The petition is set for hearing at 9 a.m. on April 25, 2019 in front of Associate Judge Joseph N. Camacho at the Marianas Business Plaza, Saipan, Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands.

/s/ Kimberlyn K. King-Hinds – F0495
Attorney for Petitioner

Ty Toshio Izuka
PO Box 501608
Saipan, MP 96950
Telephone No. (670) 287-7028

PRO SE

IN THE SUPERIOR COURT OF THE COMMONWEALTH OF THE NORTHERN MARIANA ISLANDS

IN RE THE MATTER OF THE PETITION TO APPOINT GENERAL GUARDIANSHIP FOR: Clayton Tyler Izuka Minor Child By Ty Toshio Izuka Petitioner.) FCD AD CIVIL ACTION NO. 19-0151) NOTICE OF HEARING

Notice is hereby given that the above-entitled matter is set for hearing on June 17, 2019, at 9:00 a.m. in Marianas Business Plaza, before Associate Judge Teresa Kim-Tenorio

Dated this 2nd day of April, 2019

PATRICK V. DIAZ
Clerk of Court
/s/
By: Deputy Clerk of Court

PROCUREMENT AND SUPPLY
CNMI GOVERNMENT
INVITATION TO BID
ITB NO.: ITB19-DOL/WIA-070
SUBMISSION DATE: MAY 06, 2019 TIME: 09:00 A.M.
"PURCHASE OF ONE (1) CLASS "I" VEHICLE FOR THE DEPARTMENT OF LABOR, WORKFORCE INVESTMENT AGENCY"

COPIES OF THE SPECIFICATIONS MAY BE OBTAINED AT THE OFFICE OF THE DIRECTOR OF PROCUREMENT & SUPPLY, LOCATED AT THE FORMER EMERGENCY MANAGEMENT OFFICE, ASCENCION DRIVE, BUILDING NO. 1301, CAPITOL HILL, SAIPAN, DURING REGULAR WORKING HOURS.

THE PROVISIONS OF THE CNMI PROCUREMENT REGULATIONS, NMIAC SECTION 70-30.3-725 AND 70-30.3-730 PROHIBITING GRATUITIES, KICKBACKS AND CONTINGENT FEES SHALL APPLY.

THE CNMI GOVERNMENT RESERVES THE RIGHT TO REJECT ANY OR ALL BIDS, OR PORTIONS THEREOF, AND WAIVE IMMATERIAL DEFECTS IF TO DO SO WOULD BE IN THE BEST INTEREST OF THE CNMI GOVERNMENT.

/S/ JEFFREY T. CAMACHO
ACTING SECRETARY OF LABOR

/S/ JOAQUIN S. REYES
ACTING DIRECTOR, P&S

PROCUREMENT AND SUPPLY
CNMI GOVERNMENT
REQUEST FOR QUALIFICATIONS
RFQ NO.: RFQ19-BECQ/DCRM-069
SUBMISSION DATE: APRIL 29, 2019 TIME: 09:00 A.M.
"A&E SERVICE FOR THE JEFFREY'S BEACH BOARDWALK PROJECT FOR THE BUREAU OF ENVIRONMENTAL COASTAL QUALITY, DIVISION OF COASTAL RESOURCES MANAGEMENT"

COPIES OF THE SPECIFICATIONS MAY BE OBTAINED AT THE OFFICE OF THE DIRECTOR OF PROCUREMENT & SUPPLY, LOCATED AT THE FORMER EMERGENCY MANAGEMENT OFFICE, ASCENCION DRIVE, BUILDING NO. 1301, CAPITOL HILL, SAIPAN, DURING REGULAR WORKING HOURS.

THE PROVISIONS OF THE CNMI PROCUREMENT REGULATIONS, NMIAC SECTION 70-30.3-725 AND 70-30.3-730 PROHIBITING GRATUITIES, KICKBACKS AND CONTINGENT FEES SHALL APPLY.

THE CNMI GOVERNMENT RESERVES THE RIGHT TO REJECT ANY OR ALL BIDS, OR PORTIONS THEREOF, AND WAIVE IMMATERIAL DEFECTS IF TO DO SO WOULD BE IN THE BEST INTEREST OF THE CNMI GOVERNMENT.

/S/ ELI D. CABRERA
ADMINISTRATOR, BECQ

/S/ JOAQUIN S. REYES
ACTING DIRECTOR, P&S

6th Women's Summit was the biggest one yet

Close to 200 government employees, activists, non-government organizations, and businesses convened for the daylong CNMI Women's Summit last March 29 at the Hibiscus Hall of Fiesta Resort & Spa Saipan.

To mark this year's theme, "Lead-HER-Ship: Masters of Our Own Destiny," the event kicked off with the arrival of *sakman Neni* captained by Sophia Perez, with crew April Repeki, Rep. Sheila Babauta, and Art De Oro. A *sakman is* an indigenous canoe.

The summit, which was hosted by the CNMI Women's Association, got underway following the American and CNMI anthems sung by Malua Kiana Peter Hosono and Antonette Michaela Peter Nogis; a welcome address and special remarks by CNMI Women's Association president Rose T. Ada-Hocog and first lady Diann Torres, affirming the call for action to support women's rights and promote gender equality in the region and the world.

Agnes McPhetres delivers her closing remarks at the CNMI Women's Summit on March 29 at the Hibiscus Hall of Fiesta Resort & Spa Saipan. ***See more photos on Page 8***

CONTRIBUTED PHOTO

According to the CNMI Women's Summit Steering Committee, this year's summit was conceived to promote the empowerment of women through women's woven voices, particularly by opening up discussion and engaging in conversation about issues that affect women.

The keynote address was delivered by a daughter of the Marianas, Rlene Santos Steffy, a leading ethnographer and oral historian in the Pacific.

Steffy shared her personal experiences and emphasized the importance of being at the helm to chart one's own course and journey and to author one's "her-story" "the way you want to write it."

Moderator Erin Derrington from the Office of Planning and Development led the presentation on "Equality and the Sustainable Development Goals," which framed the panel presentation and discussions of Rep. Janet Maratita, Rep. Tina Sablan, Patricia Coleman, Maisie Tenorio, and Retta Hamilton.

Recommendations and resolutions from the summit will be presented to the CNMI leadership for consideration and action.

The summit ended with performance by award-winning MHS Glee Club, whose medley of *Bridge Over Troubled Waters*, *Moana*'s *How Far I'll Go*, and Andra Day's "*Rise Up*" received a standing ovation.

Following the performance, Agnes McPhetres said in her closing remarks: "In my 60 years in education, I could say that this is one of the best days of my life..."

And to think the summit almost didn't push through following the devastation of Super Typhoon Yutu in October 2018. The first Women's Summit was held in 2013.

The summit's sponsors were Fiesta Resort & Spa Saipan, *Marianas Variety*, U-TOP Investment (Saipan) Inc., Bank of Guam, Northern Marianas Humanities Council, Northern Marianas College, and IT&E.

Non-profit organizations and businesses also donated:

- The Lady Diann Torres Foundation for giveaways.
- Commonwealth Council for Arts and Culture and Artists for traditional handicraft and displays.
- 500 Sails and crew for sailing the *sakman Neni* to the summit's grounds.
- MHS Glee Club for their medley performance.
- MyCapitures Photography for providing complimentary professional headshots.
- Godfather's Beach Hour Bar for providing happy hour specials during the post-summit social event.
- Tropical Instance Press, Inc. for printing the CNMI Women's Summit banner "Lead-Her-Ship."

For partnership queries and more information, call 233-9411 or email cnmiwomen@gmail.com. ***(PR)***

US Coast Guard to recruit in the CNMI

SANTA RITA, Guam—Following two highly successful recruiting trips in September 2017 and May 2018, the U.S. Coast Guard and U.S. Coast Guard Academy will have recruiters and representatives visiting Saipan, Tinian, and Rota from April 22-30, to meet with interested applicants.

On Saipan, they will be going to the Northern Marianas College, Kagman High School, Marianas High School, Saipan Southern High School, Mount Carmel School, and Grace Christian Academy.

On Tinian and Rota, they will be visiting those islands' respective high schools.

Interested students, especially those in their senior year, should see their counselors participate in these visits.

For those who have graduated high school, or would like more one-on-one time, the Coast Guard's representatives will be available at the following municipal offices:

- Saipan Mayor's Office: April 22-26.
- Rota Mayor's Office: April 29.
- Tinian Mayor's Office: April 30

Representatives of the U.S. Coast Guard will be at these offices from 1pm through 5pm. Walk-ins are welcome.

The U.S. Coast Guard is a military, multi-mission, maritime service within the U.S. Department of Homeland Security and one of the nation's five Armed Forces. Its core roles are to protect the public, the environment, and the U.S. economic and security interests in America's coasts, ports, and inland waterways.

Serving in the U.S. Coast Guard allows its members to travel worldwide, and duty stations include Guam, Hawaii, the mainland United States, the Caribbean, Europe, and the Middle East. As one of the five branches of the Armed Forces, all service members earn competitive pay, benefits, and educational opportunities.

To schedule a one-on-one meeting with the U.S. Coast Guard's representatives, contact Lt. Christine T. Igisomar (christine.t.igisomar@uscg.mil).

For more information, go to www.gocoastguard.com, or for the Coast Guard Academy, www.uscga.edu. ***(PR)***

MARIANAS VISITORS AUTHORITY

REQUEST FOR PROPOSAL
MVA-RFP-19-2014

Submission/Closing Date: April 22, 2019 Time: 3:00 p.m.

FINANCIAL AND COMPLIANCE AUDIT SERVICES FOR FISCAL YEARS 2019 THROUGH 2021

Submit sealed proposals to: Marianas Visitors Authority
P.O. Box 500861
Saipan, MP 96950

Interested parties may pick up the Scope of Work at the **Marianas Visitors Authority Office, San Jose Professional Building, Beach Rd., San Jose, Saipan** from 8:00 a.m. to 5:00 p.m., Monday through Friday, except holidays or by visiting the **MVA** website at www.mymarianas.com.

/s/ Marian Aldan-Pierce
Chairperson, Board of Directors

/s/ Christopher A. Concepcion
Managing Director

Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands
NORTHERN MARIANAS HOUSING CORPORATION
P.O. BOX 500514, Saipan, MP 96950-0514
Email: nmhc@nmhc.gov.mp • Website: http://www.nmhcgov.net

NMHC EQUAL HOUSING OPPORTUNITY

PUBLIC NOTICE

This Notice is paid by NMHC with HUD funds.

COMBINED NOTICE OF FINDING OF NO SIGNIFICANT IMPACT AND INTENT TO REQUEST RELEASE OF FUNDS

Government of the Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands
Office of the Governor
Saipan, MP 96950 Tel: (670) 237-2200 or (670) 234-9447/6866

This notice shall satisfy the above-cited two separate but related procedural notification requirements.

REQUEST FOR RELEASE OF FUNDS

On or after April 05, 2019, the Government of the Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands will submit a request to the U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development, Honolulu Field Office, for the release of Community Development Block Grant (CDBG) Funds under Title 1 of the Housing and Community Development Act of 1974 (PL 93-383), as amended, to undertake the following projects and purposes in Saipan, Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands:

Project/Activity Type	Purpose	Location	Total Project Cost
Rehabilitation and Expansion of the Kagman Community Center	Construct new extension building; Rehabilitate Auditorium Building & Stage Area; Rehabilitate the male dressing room, female dressing room, music rehearsal room; and Gazebo	Kagman, Saipan	$323,081.00

FINDING OF NO SIGNIFICANT IMPACT

The Government of the Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands has determined that the above-listed projects will have no significant impact on the human environment. Therefore, an Environmental Impact Statement under the National Environmental Policy Act of 1969 (NEPA) is not required. Additional project information is contained in the Environmental Review Record (ERR) on file at the Northern Marianas Housing Corporation Central Office in Garapan, Saipan and may be examined or copied during regular work hours, Monday through Friday except CNMI or Austerity Holidays, from 7:30 A.M. to 4:30 P.M.

PUBLIC COMMENTS

Any individual, group or agency disagreeing with this determination or wishing to comment on the projects may submit written comments to the Northern Marianas Housing Corporation, P.O. Box 500514, Saipan, MP 96950 or direct delivery to the central office in Garapan, Saipan. All comments received by **April 04, 2019,** will be considered by the Government of the Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands prior to authorizing submission of a request for release of funds. Commentors should specify which part of this Notice they are addressing.

RELEASE OF FUNDS

The Government of the Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands certifies to the U. S. Department of Housing and Urban Development, HUD Honolulu Field Office that the Government of the Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands and Acting Governor Arnold I. Palacios consent to accept the jurisdiction of the Federal Courts if an action is brought to enforce responsibilities in relation to the environmental review process, and that these responsibilities have been satisfied. The U. S. Department of Housing and Urban Development HUD Honolulu Field Office acceptance of the certification satisfies its responsibilities under the National Environmental Policy Act of 1969 and related laws and authorities, and allows the Government of the Northern Mariana Islands to use Program Funds.

OBJECTION TO RELEASE OF FUNDS

The U. S. Department of Housing and Urban Development HUD Honolulu Field Office will accept objections to its release of funds and the Government of the Northern Mariana Islands certification for a period of **fifteen days** following anticipated submission date or its actual receipt of the request (whichever is later) only if it is on one of the following bases: (a) the certification was not executed by the Certifying Officer of the Government of the Northern Mariana Islands; (b) the Government of the Northern Mariana Islands has omitted a step or failed to make a decision or finding required by the U. S. Department of Housing and Urban Development regulations at 24 CFR Part 58; (c) the grant recipient has incurred cost not authorized by 24 CFR Part 58 before approval of the release of funds by the U. S. Department of Housing and Urban Development; or (d) another Federal agency acting pursuant to 40 CFR Part 1504 has submitted a written finding that the project is unsatisfactory from the standpoint of environmental quality. Objections must be prepared and submitted in accordance with the required procedures of 24 CFR Part 58 and shall be addressed to the U. S. Department of Housing and Urban Development Honolulu Field Office, 1132 Bishop Street, Suite 1400, Honolulu, Hawaii, 96813. Potential objectors should contact the U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development to verify the actual last day of the objection period.

Arnold I. Palacios
Acting Governor

6th Women's Summit

AT BUSINESSWOMAN OF THE YEAR GALA

Two businesswomen to get Lifetime Achievement awards

BARRIGADA, Guam—*Guam Business Magazine* will present Lifetime Achievement awards to two recipients on April 27 at the 2019 *Guam Business Magazine* Businesswoman of the Year Gala at the Hyatt Regency Guam.

The two recipients will be Donna Wilde Kloppenburg and Belta Sgambelluri Perez.

The award recognizes businesswomen who have worked tirelessly to improve the quality of life in their island community through business and community service and who serve as role models for businesswomen of today.

Kloppenburg is the executive vice president and former CEO of Kloppenburg Enterprises Inc.

Perez is president of John Robert Powers LLC, which teaches dance, voice, acting and modeling skills and which she founded in Guam in 1970.

After raising her children, Kloppenburg took a more active role in Kloppenburg Enterprises.

She and her family were recognized as the U.S. Small Business Administration's 2008 Jeffrey Butland Family-Owned Business of the Year. In addition, Kloppenburg worked as the public relations and development director of the Salvation Army's Guam Corps for 11 years from 2002 to 2013, where she was tasked with fundraising and raising awareness of Salvation Army programs and services.

Civic positions Kloppenburg has held include: member of the Governor's Task Force on Education from 1998 to 2001, director of the Guam Chamber of Commerce from 2007 to 2010, board director of the Guam Council of Arts and Humanities from 2014 to 2017 and the Guam Economic Development Authority board for one year.

Kloppenburg is a lifetime member and three-term past president of the Guam Women's Club, which she joined in 1995. She is additionally a past president of the International Women's Club of Guam, a two-term past president of Soroptimist International of Guam and a two-term past president of the Guam Council of Women's Club. She is a past president of the Guam Symphony Society and has also served on a number of other boards.

Perez graduated in 1963 with an associate degree in education and drama from the then-Territorial College of Guam, before it became the University of Guam. Perez was given a grant scholarship to Mt. Mary College in Milwaukee, Wisconsin, later transferring and graduating from San Jose State University in California with a bachelor degree in education and psychology.

Upon her return to Guam in 1966, she taught drama at Academy of Our Lady of Guam for two years, moving to the Department of Education in 1968 as an administrator. In 1969 Perez wrote the grant that launched the Guam Head Start Program for 3- to 5-year-olds.

Perez secured the JRP franchise for the Asia Pacific Region in 1970, though she would later retain Guam and Micronesia to concentrate on raising her three sons as well as developing the school.

Perez

Kloppenburg

More than 25,000 students have graduated from JRP.

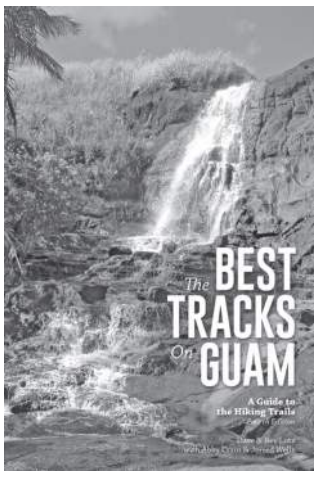
Perez has helped graduates secure mainland job placements and fundraised for them to attend national competitions. She supported the Alee Children's Shelter Volunteer Holiday Fund Drive for 15 years.

Perez has been recognized as an Outstanding Young Woman of America in 1971 and 1976, by the Guam Legislature in 1986 and by the Guam Visitors Bureau for its 1999 Lifetime Achievement Award. Perez was a member of the GVB board from 1970 to 1981.

She was inducted into the Modeling Association of America's International Hall of Fame in 2015 and was its president from 2017 to 2018. JRP was recognized in 2018 as School of the Year by the International Presentation of Performers. ***(PR)***

Guam's original hiking book to be re-released on April 12

For more than two decades, hikers have been guided through Guam's most beautiful jungles, mountains, waterfalls, and historic and cultural sites by *The Best Tracks on Guam* by Dave and Bev Lotz. After selling out of several print runs of three editions of the book over the years, the authors worked with the University of Guam Press to design a new and improved fourth edition.



The edition, published by Taiguini Books, a division of UOG Press, will be released at a launch party on April 12, from 5pm to 7pm, at the newly opened Asiga café behind Oka Pay-Less in Tamuning. The café shares the name of a hike in Malojloj featured in the book.

The book is a resource for hikers, featuring detailed directions to and descriptions of 44 hiking adventures, a thorough hike-safety guide, a plant guide, and hiking tips informed by the authors' nearly 50 years of experience hiking on Guam. The Lotzes not only documented but trailblazed many of the hikes in the book, creating the seminal hiking book on Guam that has informed other hiking texts both online and in print.

For this edition, they teamed up with adventure photographer and avid hiker Abby Crain and search and rescue firefighter Jerred Wells to update photography and trail information in the book.

This latest edition of the book is printed on durable, laminated pages and is spiral-bound so that it can serve as a field guide while on hikes.

The book also offers details on how to prepare for hikes; health and safety information including both preventative measures and field emergency responses; cultural, historical, and environmental descriptions; and much more. ***(PR)***

PROCUREMENT AND SUPPLY
CNMI GOVERNMENT

INVITATION TO BID
RFP NO.: RFP19-DPL-076

SUBMISSION DATE: MAY 06, 2019 TIME: 010:00 A.M.

"IMPLEMENTATION SAGE 50 ERP PROGRAM FOR THE DEPARTMENT OF PUBLIC LANDS"

COPIES OF THE SPECIFICATIONS MAY BE OBTAINED AT THE OFFICE OF THE DIRECTOR OF PROCUREMENT & SUPPLY, LOCATED AT THE FORMER EMERGENCY MANAGEMENT OFFICE, ASCENCION DRIVE, BUILDING NO. 1301, CAPITOL HILL, SAIPAN, DURING REGULAR WORKING HOURS.

QUESTIONS REGARDING THIS RFP CAN BE MADE IN ANY MODE OF WRITTEN COMMUNICATION TO **MS. MARIANNE C. TEREGEYO, SECRETARY**, VIA FACSIMILE TO (670) 234-3755 OR VIA E-MAIL TO mariannet@dpl.gov.mp **NO LATER THAN 4:30 P.M., APRIL 22, 2019**.

PRE-PROPOSAL MEETING IS SCHEDULE ON **APRIL 24, 2019 AT 10:00 A.M., LOCAL TIME**, AT THE OFFICE OF THE DEPARTMENT OF PUBLIC LANDS LOCATED ON THE 2ND FLOOR OF THE JOETEN DANDAN COMMERCIAL BUILDING, SAIPAN.

THE PROVISIONS OF THE CNMI PROCUREMENT REGULATIONS, NMIAC SECTION 70-30.3-725 AND 70-30.3-730 PROHIBITING GRATUITIES, KICKBACKS AND CONTINGENT FEES SHALL APPLY.

THE CNMI GOVERNMENT RESERVES THE RIGHT TO REJECT ANY OR ALL BIDS, OR PORTIONS THEREOF, AND WAIVE IMMATERIAL DEFECTS IF TO DO SO WOULD BE IN THE BEST INTEREST OF THE CNMI GOVERNMENT.

/S/ MARIANNE C. TEREGEYO
SECRETARY, DPL

/S/ JOAQUIN S. REYES
ACTING DIRECTOR, P&S

Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands
OFFICE OF THE GOVERNOR
Bureau of Environmental and Coastal Quality
Division of Coastal Resources Management
P.O. Box 501304, Saipan, MP 96950
Tel: (670) 664-8300; Fax: (670) 664-8315
www.dcrm.gov.mp

Eli D. Cabrera, Administrator
Janice E. Castro, Director, DCRM

PUBLIC NOTICE

MEETING OF THE CRM AGENCY OFFICIALS

Pursuant to Public Law 8-41, Section 11, Governor Ralph DLG. Torres and Lt. Governor Arnold I. Palacios through the Division of Coastal Resources Management (DCRM) hereby give notice that a CRM Agency Officials meeting will be held on ***Tuesday, April 9, 2019, 9:30 AM*** at the BECQ 2nd Floor Main Conference Room, in Lower Gualo Rai, Saipan.

AGENDA

I. PRELIMINARY MATTERS
A. Call to Order
B. Roll Call
C. Adoption of Agenda
D. Adoption of December 27, 2018 Meeting Minutes

II. PERMIT APPLICATION REVIEW
A. CRM Permit Application No. SMS-2019-X-111, Amendment 2019-1
Project: ISA VILLA MULTIFAMILY DEVELOPMENT COMPLEX PROJECT
The proposed expansion project is the Phase II construction of the Isa Villas Multifamily Development Complex which includes 86 additional housing units. With this expansion, the multifamily complex would have a total of 6 concrete buildings with 113 housing units, 150 regular parking spaces and 6 ADA-compliant parking stalls, a communal/recreational space, community center, and driveway. The project is located in Capitol Hill, Saipan, on Lot No. 150 E 30. Estimated cost for the construction of the multifamily complex is about $25,132,125.19.

1) Agencies' Discussion of Application Status
2) Agencies' Permit Conditions
3) CRM Permit Application Final Determination

III. OTHER MATTERS
1V. ADJOURNMENT

All interested persons are welcome to attend and to submit written or oral testimony regarding the above agenda items. (NOTE: Pursuant to Public Law 8-41, Section 13 (a) (7) and Section 13(c), the Board may vote to meet in executive session).

/s/ JANICE E. CASTRO
Director, DCRM

Board of Trustees
Commonwealth Healthcare Corporation
Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands
1 Lower Navy Hill Road Navy Hill, Saipan, MP 96950

Pursuant to 1 CMC § 9911, the Commonwealth Healthcare Corporation hereby gives notice that a Special meeting of the Board of Trustees will be held on Friday, April 5, 2019 at 12:00 pm in the CEO's Conference Room 3 located at the Administrative Offices.

CHCC Board of Trustees Special Meeting
April 5, 2019 at 12:00 pm

Agenda

I. Call to Order
II. Determination of Quorum
III. Approval of Agenda
IV. Public Comments
V. Chargemaster – Fees Update
VI. To vote and approve Applications for Privileges:

New Applicants:
1) Dr. Luis Negron
2) Dr. Dore Shafransky
3) Dr. Carine Davila
4) Dr. Lily Stern
5) Dr. Lillian Muldoon
6) Dr. Alan Zevallos

Renewal Applicants:
7) Dr. Joel Smith
8) Dr. Helen Taro-Atalig

VII. Adjournment

P.O. Box 500409 CK, Saipan, MP 96950
Telephone: (670) 236-8201/2 FAX: (670) 233-8756

PROCUREMENT AND SUPPLY
CNMI GOVERNMENT

REQUEST FOR PROPOSALS
RFP NO.: RFP19-JUDICIARY-067

SUBMISSION DATE: MAY 06, 2019 TIME: 10:30 A.M.

"ROOFING TILE REMOVAL AND FINISHING FOR THE GUMA' HUSTISIA, IIMWAL AWEEWE, HOUSE OF JUSTICE SAIPAN, NORTHERN MARIANA ISLANDS. A PROJECT UNDER THE DEPARTMENT OF FINANCE, OFFICE OF THE SECRETARY"

COPIES OF THE SPECIFICATIONS MAY BE OBTAINED AT THE OFFICE OF THE DIRECTOR OF PROCUREMENT & SUPPLY, LOCATED AT THE FORMER EMERGENCY MANAGEMENT OFFICE, ASCENCION DRIVE, BUILDING NO. 1301, CAPITOL HILL, SAIPAN, DURING REGULAR WORKING HOURS.

QUESTIONS MUST BE MADE IN WRITING TO **JOHN T. VILLAGOMEZ** VIA EMAIL TO john.villagomez@jusitice.gov.mp **NO LATER THAN THE CLOSE OF BUSINESS APRIL 26, 2019** ALL QUESTIONS AND ANSWERS SHALL BE SHARED WITH ALL PROPOSERS.

A PRE-PROPOSAL MEETING WILL BE HELD ON **APRIL 24, 2019 AT 09:30 A.M., LOCAL TIME** AT THE GUMA' HUSTISIA ASSEMBLY HALL.

THE PROVISIONS OF THE CNMI PROCUREMENT REGULATIONS, NMIAC SECTION 70-30.3-725 AND 70-30.3-730 PROHIBITING GRATUITIES, KICKBACKS AND CONTINGENT FEES SHALL APPLY.

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/S/ DAVID DLG. ATALIG
SECRETARY OF FINANCE

/S/ JOAQUIN S. REYES
ACTING DIRECTOR, P&S

/S/ ALEXANDRO C. CASTRO
CHIEF JUSTICE

Opinion

Hafa Adai!
Saipan Tribune
THE CNMI'S FIRST DAILY NEWSPAPER
Volume XXIX, Issue No. 66

Published daily at 2/F JP Center,
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Mailing Address: PMB 34, Box 10001, Saipan, MP, 96950

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MEMBER

The Associated Press | Pacific Islands News Association

EDITORIAL

Running for president in the #MeToo era

The first #MeToo allegations of the 2020 presidential race hit over the weekend, letting the general public in on a secret that apparently was already known in political circles: that former Vice President Joe Biden can be a bit too "handsy" with women and girls.

In fact, there's plenty of photographic documentation of this. But Biden's behavior didn't draw much scrutiny until an essay appeared in *New York Magazine*'s "The Cut" on Friday in which Lucy Flores, a state assemblywoman in Nevada, described an encounter when she was running for lieutenant governor in 2014. During a political rally, she said, Biden came up behind her, put both hands on her shoulders and gave her a long, slow kiss on the back of her head just before she headed to the stage. If it was meant, as some have suggested, as a show of avuncular encouragement, it didn't work. Flores said she felt embarrassed, shocked and confused. Since then, several other people have recounted similar experiences.

With more than a year and a half to go before election day, it's hard to imagine there won't be more such unsavory disclosures involving the large field of presidential candidates. So perhaps we as a society can use this time to think about how we respond to such allegations. As this page has noted many times, the #MeToo movement is a healthy one for a society that has for far too long ignored these serious issues. Women's complaints should not be ignored or pooh-poohed or dismissed out of hand; sexual harassment should be taken seriously and addressed on a case-by-case basis.

There is, of course, a spectrum of bad behavior; not every offense should be career-ending; not all transgressions are equally unforgivable. Some require a reprimand while at the other extreme, some require criminal charges. Meanwhile, the useful and important discussion about how men should, and should not, treat female colleagues, co-workers, subordinates and service workers should continue.

It's important to note the incident Flores reported was in 2014. This is not to offer an excuse for Biden, but to acknowledge that since then there has been a seismic cultural shift that has recalibrated societal norms and colored past behavior in new shades of gray. Men of all ages have been confronted with the reality that behavior they might have seen as inoffensive might instead have been taken as patronizing, offensive or creepy.

Biden seems bewildered by the outcry over what he called "expressions of affection." After all, he says, he's been an advocate for the rights of women and authored the Violence Against Women Act.

But he also said wisely that he will pay better attention in the future. That's a good idea. Check your behavior before you get checked, because the days in which a president or a presidential candidate could blithely massage the shoulders of another world leader or rub noses with a volunteer or kiss a state assemblywoman on the back of her head are happily gone.

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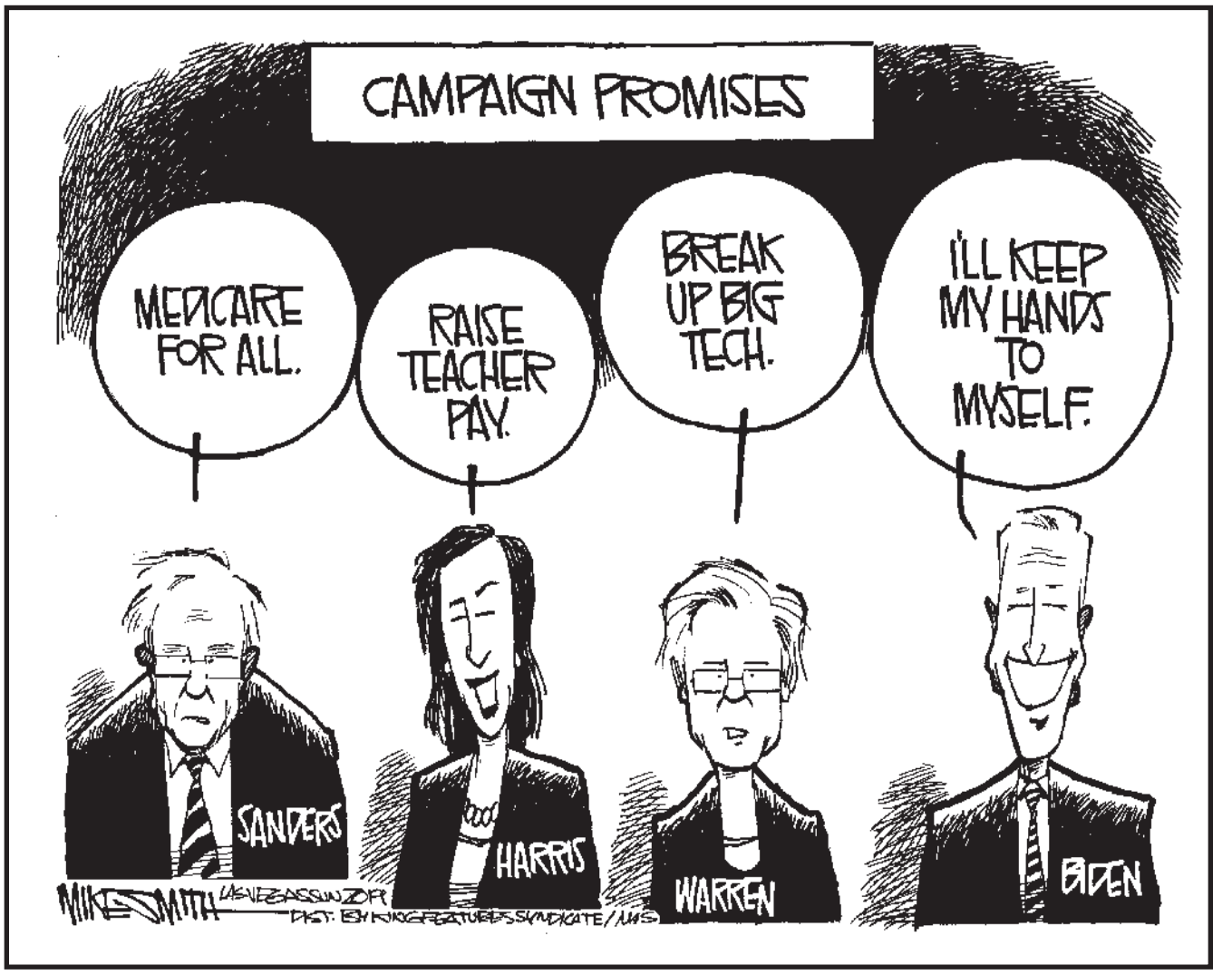

How is Congress handling opioids? We followed the money

By ANAND PAREKH AND REGINA LABELLE
CQ-ROLL CALL

Nearly 50,000 people died from an opioid overdose in 2017. Today, Americans are more likely to die from opioid overdoses than car accidents. While the United States is beginning to see a few positive signs that overdose deaths are leveling off, this doesn't mean we're even close to ending the epidemic.

Untreated opioid use disorder has numerous consequences, including neonatal abstinence syndrome, the spread of infectious diseases and family separations. These consequences will be with us for years to come. So too should federal investments to address the epidemic, and they should be transparent to policymakers and the public.

Imagine trying to build a national treatment support system almost from scratch. How much would it cost? A billion dollars? Ten billion dollars? To put things in perspective, only 10 percent of people with a substance use disorder, and only 30 percent of those who specifically have an opioid use disorder, receive treatment. This shows we are far from closing the gap. While a precise dollar figure has not yet been determined, Congress has begun to invest in programs to build a treatment system to address the epidemic.

Over the past six months, the Bipartisan Policy Center analyzed the congressionally appropriated opioid funding distributed to states in fiscal years 2017 and 2018. We also took a closer look at how five states—Arizona, Louisiana, Ohio, New Hampshire and Tennessee—are spending these resources. BPC's newly released study shows that funding is reaching areas in these states with the highest number of deaths. However, when examining the per capita funding in rural and metropolitan areas of these states, many rural counties receive relatively low levels of direct funding compared to more populated cities.

This type of large-scale examination has never been done before or made publicly available. This study was necessary to determine where Congress' significant investments are being made and to provide recommendations for future opioid funding.

Our analysis identified 57 federal grant programs across five departments and multiple agencies, including the White House Office of National Drug Control Policy that, either entirely or substantially, support programs that seek to end the opioid epidemic. These programs span the continuum of care, including prevention, treatment and recovery. In addition, funds have been directed toward research, criminal justice, law enforcement and interdiction efforts. These grants account for $3.3 billion in opioid funding for fiscal 2017 and $7.4 billion in fiscal 2018—a 124 percent increase in discretionary spending.

Between these two years, funding specifically targeted to opioid use disorder treatment and recovery increased by $1.5 billion (from $599 million to $2.12 billion), a testament to the urgent need to reduce overdose deaths. Though the report did not focus on mandatory spending, it does acknowledge the critical role of Medicaid and Medicare in supporting treatment of opioid use disorder.

Based on BPC's analysis as well as interviews with state officials, the report recommends that federal funding must be more sustainable, flexible and coordinated.

First, while funding for treatment and prevention of opioid use disorder is unprecedented, the epidemic is part of a larger problem of addiction in the United States. Providing one-time funding is treating addiction as if it were an acute condition, instead of a chronic one. Funding must be provided with a longer-term horizon rather than in annual budget cycles.

Second, federal funds going to states must be flexible enough to allow states to address all types of substance use disorders, including alcohol and the emerging problem of methamphetamines. Drug trends morph over time. We have seen this with the opioid epidemic. What began in the 1990s with prescription opioids has evolved into an epidemic driven by heroin and now fentanyl.

Lastly, there must be greater coordination of funding at the federal level. The opioid epidemic is multifaceted and demands the same response. The silos created by numerous funding sources require the federal government to provide greater oversight and coordination to help states tackle this problem. We agree with the President's Commission on Combating Drug Addiction and the Opioid Crisis, which called on the administration to provide ONDCP with a greater role in coordinating the federal response.

It is too soon to evaluate whether federal funds are entirely investing in evidence-based treatment programs and are leading to the desired health outcomes. However, we are encouraged to see that some large federal grants, such as the Substance Abuse

See CONGRESS on Next Page

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US engages in 'citizenship apartheid' regarding Puerto Rico

By RAUL EDUARDO ROSAS
The Baltimore Sun

Raul Eduardo Rosas is retired from the United States Navy and is executive director and founder of Lift a Vet, a non-profit based in Columbia, Md. He wrote this for the Baltimore Sun.

It is high time the United States extended the right to vote in presidential elections to the U.S. citizens of Puerto Rico. Enactment of a constitutional amendment to secure this right would be a sensible first step to full enfranchisement until the more contentious issue of statehood is resolved.

The Puerto Rican suffrage question recently attained a new level of urgency and relevance after a U.S. district court judge ruled that the federal government's denial of disability benefits for the island's most vulnerable residents is unconstitutional.

In a scorching opinion, Judge Gustavo Gelpi—a George W. Bush appointee—accused the United States of engaging in a "citizenship apartheid" that excludes Puerto Ricans from the Supplemental Security Income (SSI) program simply because they live in a U.S. territory.

Their "Hispanic origin" has driven U.S. policy on the island, "despite their birthright United States citizenship," he wrote. "Allowing a United States citizen in Puerto Rico (who) is poor and disabled to be denied SSI disability payments creates an impermissible second rate citizenship akin to that premised on race and amounts to Congress switching off the Constitution."

His ruling takes on the legacy of the Insular Cases, a series of controversial early 20th century Supreme Court decisions that cast the inhabitants of the United States' newly acquired overseas territories as unfit to become citizens—and thus unworthy of certain constitutional protections, including trial by jury.

While the U.S. did award American citizenship to Puerto Ricans in 1917, Congress and successive administrations have continued to withhold the sacrosanct Fifth Amendment rights of Due Process and Equal Protection, as Judge Gelpi aptly demonstrates.

An arguably broader abuse of power—the denial of voting rights to the commonwealth's 3.2 million U.S. citizens—renders them unrepresented in Washington and unable to protect their interests nationally.

Denial of suffrage should in itself be enough for Congress to act; three additional arguments bolster the case.

First, Puerto Rico's population makes it larger than 21 states, all other U.S. territories and Washington D.C. That's a lot of disenfranchised people, whose combined federal tax bills total more than $3 billion a year.

Second, there's legal precedent. The 23rd Amendment, ratified in 1961, gave District of Colombia residents the right to vote in U.S. presidential elections. And the new House leadership is on record as the first in a generation to endorse D.C. statehood.

But perhaps the most powerful rationale is based on the blood and valor of Puerto Rico's military veterans.

Since 1917, more than 200,000 Puerto Ricans have served in the U.S. military; since the Korean War, 1,225 have died on the battlefield. More than 100,000 veterans currently live in Puerto Rico.

These numbers are vastly disproportionate to the island's population—yet despite the sacrifice none has a say in our democracy.

Puerto Rico's sons and daughters have featured prominently in every major U.S. military conflict dating back to the American Revolution, when they fought as Spanish subjects.

During the Civil War, San Juan native Lt. Augusto Rodriguez commanded the 15th Connecticut Volunteer Infantry, later receiving the Army Civil War Campaign Medal.

These events occurred well before the U.S. annexed the island in 1898. Since then, Puerto Rico has become a key strategic location.

In World War I, San Juan headquartered American forces protecting shipping lanes and monitoring hostile activity in the eastern Caribbean and central Atlantic. By 1943, more than 55,000 service personnel were deployed around the island. Later, the U.S. used its Puerto Rican bases to project power and keep watch on Cold War rivals Cuba and the USSR.

Puerto Rico's 65th Infantry Regiment ("Borinqueneers"), was awarded the Congressional Gold Medal in 2014—the first Hispanic military unit and first Korean War unit to receive such distinction.

General Douglas MacArthur praised the regiment, writing that the group gave "daily proof on the battlefields of Korea of their courage, determination and resolute will to victory."

For all the achievements, these patriotic citizens cannot vote for their commander in chief.

Enacting a constitutional amendment to secure voting rights would do more than reverse a legacy of discrimination. It would support Puerto Rican veterans who have been America's willing partners since the Revolution, helping to deter aggression and expand freedom.

Our sacrifice validates Judge Gelpi's decision. Puerto Ricans are ready to participate actively in our democracy and become true stakeholders in it.

Stereotyping through stories

By CABRINA MCLAIN
The Baltimore Sun

Cabrina McLain is the author of How to 4C Positive Change in Your Life *and a motivational speaker.*

Do you know why we are so polarized in this country?

We look at someone who is Muslim, Christian, Jewish, agnostic, black, white or Asian, and we tell their story for them.

Imagine the stages of your life: being raised by wonderful people, going to school, traveling, attending a work function.

You have a palette of experiences that have made you who you are. You have traveled the world, love music from all genres, and you consider yourself as a well-rounded person.

Then imagine that someone comes up to you and assumes that you are hostile, primitive and unaware. Before you say one word, they assume that you are misguided and need to be directed. They want you to know that they understand you so they start speaking in slang and broken grammar.

Think about the feeling of being undervalued, marginalized, underestimated.

You have tried to share how you feel about being seen with a biased lens, but people challenge you and tell you that they cannot see it so it does not exist.

They tell you that you need to see things the way they see it. That the reality of your life is seen by news headlines, reality shows and hip hop lyrics. That you need to stand for a flag that represents freedom for some and oppression for others. That you need to pray how they pray.

They tell you that your expression of frustration makes them uncomfortable.

Imagine how exhausting it could be.

Imagine watching your path to progress being measured by a stranger's opinion.

Think about how you would feel if this keeps happening to you. How long would it take for you to be seething in rage? Do you think you could take a step back every time?

Recently, at the airport, two women changed the vernacular of their speech to try to connect with me.

One woman complimented my hair style and told me that I looked just like one of her employees then said, "hey Queen." Another greeted the woman next to her by replying "good evening," then turned to me, tilted her head back and forth and shouted, "what's up girlfriend?!"

I have been in this position before, discounted before responding. I have trained myself to quickly disarm, to take the high road, to make everyone feel comfortable with me. At that moment, I was thinking: I'm not your queen or your girlfriend,

But I was cordial. I smiled, pushed through it and said, "hello." I introduced myself and asked for her name. I asked questions to connect with her. I put her at ease.

When we lose who we are to influence others, it comes across as inauthentic. We are perceived as actors cast in a play that we have never read. The stage of life is full of diversity. Our job is to show up, be as genuine as we can and to work for the applause without expecting our audience to love whatever we say to them.

When you meet me, I don't need you to "teach me" something unless I ask you for your insight.

Don't assume that I'm not in charge. Speak to me as if I already know, then give me the opportunity to seek understanding when needed.

Don't look surprised when I speak. Telling me that I'm articulate is the same as saying, "you enunciate your words, I didn't expect that."

When folks don't worship the way we do, or look the way we do, we find a way to change the narrative so we can avoid uncertainty. We need more intellectual curiosity in the world and a willingness to learn from the people we encounter.

I promise you that if you look at people eye to eye, and live your life without assuming that the person you see is not above or beneath you, you will do just fine. When we are comfortable with who we are, we stop closing the unread chapters of strangers by opening the book to new relationships.

CONGRESS

From Page 10

and Mental Health Services Administration's State Opioid Response grant, now require funds to be spent only on evidence-based treatment, often referred to as medication-assisted treatment, or MAT.

Transparency is critical in making sure our current resources are being spent properly. This will ensure future congressional investments in the opioid crisis help build the type of prevention, treatment and recovery support system that our nation sorely needs.

Anand Parekh is chief medical adviser at the Bipartisan Policy Center. He was previously deputy assistant secretary for health (science and medicine) at the Department of Health and Human Services. Regina LaBelle is a BPC consultant and former chief of staff of the White House Office of National Drug Control Policy.

LETTER TO THE EDITOR

Clarification

On Monday, April 1, the Japan government announced the new era, *Reiwa*. There were some misunderstanding on the meaning of the word. *Reiwa* does not mean "order and harmony"; it means "beautiful harmony." Please see the following information for your reference:

1. With the abdication of current emperor and accession to the throne by the crown prince, as of April 1, the Japan government has made a decision to change the era and announced *Reiwa* as the new era.

2. This new era will be set to begin in Japan, after the accession to the throne by his Majesty the Crown Price on May 1 of this year.

3. The word "Reiwa"is composed of two kanji characters: "rei" meaning "beautiful" and "wa" meaning "harmony." With this, the meaning behind "reiwa" is "Culture will be nurtured as people bring their hearts together in a beautiful manner."

4. Furthermore, the name of new era is a first in history. Classical Japanese literature was the source of the name and was a quote from 1,200-year-old compilation of Japan's Oldest Anthology, *Manyoshu*.

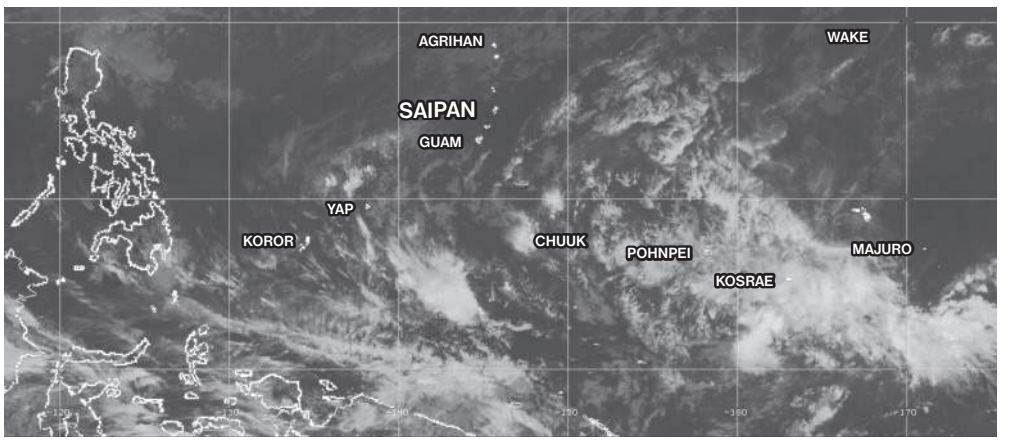
Hirotsugu Morishita
Vice Consul
Consular Office of Japan

The Weather

5-DAY FORECAST FOR SAIPAN AND TINIAN

TODAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY	SUNDAY	MONDAY
Partly cloudy with a slight chance of light showers. Northeast winds 15 to 20 mph.	Mostly cloudy with isolated showers.	Mostly cloudy with isolated showers.	Partly cloudy with a slight chance of light showers.	Partly cloudy with a slight chance of light showers.
88° 77°	88° 77°	88° 77°	88° 78°	88° 77°

YESTERDAY'S SATELLITE IMAGE



PICTURE TIME: 7:01 AM, WEDNESDAY, APRIL 3, 2019

Western North Pacific between equator and 25N from 130E to 180.

Satellite Precipitable Water imagery depicted an area of drier air pushing towards the Marianas. This drier air will keep skies partly cloudy and showers isolated through Thursday. Uncertainty about weather Thursday night into the weekend. Models are depicting a circulation passing south of the Marianas Thursday night. Models seem to agree on the placement of the circulation but disagree on the effects it may have on the Marianas. While the circulation will remain south of the local area...low-level convergence north of it will produce an area of scattered showers. GFS has showers over Marianas Thursday night through Saturday, the ECMWF has this only on Friday and Friday night. NAVGEM keeps the showers in Thursday night through Monday while CMC has scattered showers only on Friday night. This indicates the uncertainty is still high on when or if scattered showers will occur over the Marianas. In fact yesterday the GFS and NAVGEM had the circulation passing east of Guam. Because of the uncertainty left forecast basically untouched with mostly cloudy skies likely Thursday night through Saturday night.When the circulation passes south of the Marianas it will cause a slight increase in the pressure gradient resulting in a small increase in winds Thursday through Friday.

Satellite image and accompanying information are provided by the National Weather Service. For an updated weather forecast, visit the National Weather Service Guam homepage: www.prh.noaa.gov/guam/

MICRONESIA		▲ ▼ °F
Guam and Rota	Thunderstorms	85° / 77°
Palau	Thunderstorms	85° / 77°
Yap	Thunderstorms	86° / 79°
Chuuk	Thunderstorms	85° / 81°
Pohnpei	Thunderstorms	85° / 79°
Kosrae	Thunderstorms	85° / 79°
Majuro	Thunderstorms	85° / 80°

AROUND THE GLOBE		▲ ▼ °F
Auckland	Mostly Sunny	70° / 55°
Beijing	Partly Cloudy	72° / 45°
Hong Kong	Sunny	83° / 69°
Honolulu	Sunny	82° / 69°
London	Thunderstorms	48° / 36°
Los Angeles	Mostly Cloudy	68° / 55°
Manila	Partly Cloudy	93° / 79°
Melbourne	Mostly Cloudy	82° / 64°
Miami	Showers	78° / 73°
New York	Mostly Cloudy	58° / 40°
Osaka	Partly Cloudy	64° / 48°
Paris	Mostly Sunny	54° / 34°
Busan	Partly Cloudy	66° / 45°
Rome	Rain	59° / 45°
Salem	Mostly Cloudy	76° / 58°
San Francisco	Showers	59° / 51°
Seoul	Partly Cloudy	59° / 36°
Tokyo	Windy	70° / 48°
Washington, DC	Cloudy	69° / 49°

NMI CRIME STOPPERS

Anonymous tips can now be submitted through the following:
- Call 234-7272 (PARA) on any telephone
- *11 on any IT&E cellular phone
- Log on to the internet at www.nmicrimestoppers.net

TIDES: SAIPAN HARBOR TODAY		FEET
1:19 AM	LOW TIDE	0.26
7:29 AM	HIGH TIDE	1.85
1:46 PM	LOW TIDE	0.56
7:25 PM	HIGH TIDE	1.82

DAY	SUNRISE	SUNSET
Today	6:10 AM	6:29 PM
Friday	6:10 AM	6:29 PM
Saturday	6:09 AM	6:29 PM
Sunday	6:08 AM	6:30 PM
Monday	6:08 AM	6:30 PM

DAY	MOONRISE	MOONSET	MOONRISE
Today	5:29 AM	5:39 PM	-
Friday	6:06 AM	6:27 PM	-
Saturday	6:44 AM	7:16 PM	-
Sunday	7:23 AM	8:07 PM	-
Monday	8:05 AM	8:59 PM	-

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FLIGHT SCHEDULE AS OF APRIL 1, 2019

DEPARTURES

SAIPAN-GUAM (GUM)

UA117	9:15am	9:56am	Daily
UA105	6:25pm	7:05pm	2, 4

SAIPAN-BUSAN (PUS)

7C3451	3:10am	6:10am	1, 3, 5, 7
7C3451	3:30am	6:30am	4

SAIPAN-SEOUL (ICN)

TW308	1:35am	5:20am	2, 3, 4, 6, 7
OZ626	2:20am	6:00am	1
OZ626	2:50am	6:30am	2, 3, 4, 5, 6, 7
7C3403	4:35am	8:25am	Daily
7C3401	4:30pm	8:25pm	Daily

SAIPAN-SHANGHAI (PVG)

3U8648	6:10am	8:50am	1, 4, 5, 7

SAIPAN-HANGZHOU (HGH)

JD396	7:30am	11:00am	1
JD396	4:50pm	7:55pm	4

SAIPAN-GUANGZHOU (CAN)

3U8646	4:30am	7:55am	2, 6

SAIPAN-BEIJING (PEK)

MU764	1:30am	6:35am	3, 5, 7

SAIPAN-MANILA (MNL)

UA117/183	9:15am	8:50pm	2, 5 via GUM
UA117/183	9:15am	9:10pm	1, 3, 4, 6, 7 via GUM
UA117/1939:15am		10:40pm	2, 5 via GUM-ROR

SAIPAN-HONG KONG (HKG)

HX077	1:50am	5:15am	1, 4
OZ626/721	2:20am	11:40am	1 via ICN
OZ626/721	2:50am	11:40am	2, 3, 4, 5, 6, 7 via ICN
UO43	5:35am	8:25am	1
UO43	5:50am	8:40am	3, 5, 7
UA117/159	9:15am	9:50pm	1, 3, 5, 6 via GUM

ARRIVALS

GUAM (GUM)-SAIPAN

UA174	7:30am	8:12am	Daily
UA104	4:50pm	5:31pm	2, 4

BUSAN (PUS)-SAIPAN

7C3452	9:05pm	2:10am+1	2, 4, 6, 7
7C3452	9:35pm	2:30am+1	3

SEOUL (ICN)-SAIPAN

7C3402	10:10am	3:30pm	Daily
TW307	7:00pm	12:35am+1	2, 3, 5, 6
TW307	7:05pm	12:35am+1	1
OZ625	7:40pm	1:10am+1	7
OZ625	8:15pm	1:45am+1	1, 2, 3, 4, 5, 6
7C3404	10:10pm	3:40am+1	Daily

SHANGHAI (PVG)-SAIPAN

3U8647	10:20pm	4:50am+1	3, 4, 6, 7

HANGZHOU (HGH)-SAIPAN

JD395	8:05am	3:30pm	4
JD395	9:35pm	5:00am+1	7

GUANGZHOU (CAN)-SAIPAN

3U8645	7:55pm	2:40am+1	1, 5

BEIJING (PEK)-SAIPAN

MU763	3:55pm	12:30am+1	2, 4, 6

MANILA (MNL)-SAIPAN

UA192/174	9:45pm	8:12am+1	2, 5 via GUM-ROR
UA184/174	10:25pm	8:12am+1	1, 3, 4, 6, 7 via GUM
UA184/174	11:30pm	8:12am+1	2, 5 via GUM

HONG KONG (HKG)-SAIPAN

OZ722/625	1:10pm	1:10am+1	7 via ICN
OZ722/625	1:10pm	1:45am+1	1, 2, 3, 4, 5, 6 via ICN
HX076	5:15pm	00:15am+1	3, 7
UO42	6:25pm	1:20am+1	7
UO42	9:25pm	4:20am+1	2, 4, 6
UA116/174	10:45pm	8:12am+1	1, 3, 5, 6 via GUM

LEGEND: Days: Monday (1), Tuesday (2), Wednesday (3), Thursday (4), Friday (5), Saturday (6) and Sunday (7); 3U Sichuan Airlines, 7C Jeju Air, DL Delta Airlines, JD Beijing Capital, UO HK Express, HX HongKong Airlines, MU China Eastern, OZ Asiana Airlines, TW t'way Air, UA United Airlines, PR PAL Express; ETD: Estimated Time of Departure; ETA: Estimated Time of Arrival. *(The* Saipan Tribune *is not responsible for any changes in the schedule.)*

STAR MARIANAS AIR, INC.

SAIPAN TO ROTA

FLIGHT #	DEPARTURE	ARRIVAL	FREQUENCY
1301	7:30AM	8:00AM	Daily
1302	11:30AM	12:00PM	Daily
1303	4:00PM	4:30PM	Daily

ROTA TO SAIPAN

FLIGHT #	DEPARTURE	ARRIVAL	FREQUENCY
3101	8:15AM	8:45AM	Daily
3102	1:45PM	2:15PM	Daily
3103	4:45PM	5:15PM	Daily

ROTA TO GUAM

FLIGHT #	DEPARTURE	ARRIVAL	FREQUENCY
3401	12:15PM	12:45PM	Daily

GUAM TO ROTA

FLIGHT #	DEPARTURE	ARRIVAL	FREQUENCY
4301	1:00PM	1:30PM	Daily

SAIPAN TO TINIAN

FLIGHT #	DEPARTURE	ARRIVAL	FREQUENCY
1201	7:00AM	7:15AM	Daily
1202	8:00AM	8:15AM	Daily
1203	9:00AM	9:15AM	Daily
1204	10:00AM	10:15AM	Daily
1205	11:00AM	11:15AM	Daily
1206	12:00PM	12:15PM	Daily
1207	1:00PM	1:15PM	Daily
1208	2:00PM	2:15PM	Daily
1209	3:00PM	3:15PM	Daily
1210	4:00PM	4:15PM	Daily
1211	5:00PM	5:15PM	Daily
1212	6:00PM	6:15PM	Daily

TINIAN TO SAIPAN

FLIGHT #	DEPARTURE	ARRIVAL	FREQUENCY
2102	7:30AM	7:45AM	Daily
2103	8:30AM	8:45AM	Daily
2104	9:30AM	9:45AM	Daily
2105	10:30AM	10:45AM	Daily
2106	11:30AM	11:45AM	Daily
2107	12:30PM	12:45PM	Daily
2108	1:30PM	1:45PM	Daily
2109	2:30PM	2:45PM	Daily
2110	3:30PM	3:45PM	Daily
2111	4:30PM	4:45PM	Daily
2112	5:30PM	5:45PM	Daily
2113	6:30PM	6:45PM	Daily

Business

Trump team and China resume uphill effort to end trade rift

WASHINGTON (AP)—The Trump administration on Wednesday will resume negotiations with China toward ending a trade war that has deepened uncertainty for businesses and investors and dimmed the outlook for the global economy.

The two sides are to meet for the ninth time, with analysts expressing optimism that the world's two biggest economies might be near some kind of agreement. Negotiators met in Beijing last week in talks that Treasury Secretary Steven Mnuchin described as "constructive." Now, Vice Premier Liu He, a close confidante of President Xi Jinping, is leading a Chinese team to Washington.

"We have been encouraged by the tone of the negotiations," Myron Brilliant, head of international affairs at the U.S. Chamber of Commerce, told reporters Tuesday.

Brilliant estimated that the two sides are 90% of the way to an agreement but cautioned that "the last 10% is the hardest part, the trickiest part."

At the heart of the dispute are the Trump administration's allegations that China steals technology and coerces U.S. companies to hand over trade secrets—all part of Beijing's zeal to overtake U.S. technological dominance. To pressure China, the United States has imposed tariffs on $250 billion in Chinese goods. The Chinese have counterpunched by taxing $110 billion in U.S. imports.

AP

From left, U.S. Deputy Trade Representative Jeffrey Gerrish, U.S. Ambassador to China Terry Branstad, U.S. Treasury Secretary Steven Mnuchin, U.S. Trade Representative Robert Lighthizer, China's Vice Premier Liu He, Yi Gang, governor of the People's Bank of China (PBC) and National Development and Reform Commission Vice Chairman Ning Jizhe pose for a group photo at Diaoyutai State Guesthouse in Beijing Friday, March 29, 2019.

Forecasters at the World Bank and International Monetary, among others, have downgraded their outlook for the global economy, partly because the U.S.-China rift is damaging trade and causing businesses to slow their investment until they know how the dispute will end.

Tensions have eased somewhat since President Donald Trump met Xi in Buenos Aires late last year and the administration ended up suspending its plans to raise tariffs on $200 billion of the Chinese imports to buy time for negotiations

"We're making headway," Larry Kudlow, Trump's top economic adviser, said Tuesday, describing the talks as "a larger, grander discussion than anything we've ever had in U.S.-China relations."

Analysts say two major sticking points, in particular, stand in the way of any agreement.

First, Trump wants to preserve at least the 25% tariffs he has imposed on $50 billion in Chinese imports as a way to maintain leverage over Beijing. China wants those sanctions lifted.

Second, the two sides must develop a mechanism to ensure that China honors any commitments it makes in an agreement. The administration complains that China has repeatedly failed to keep promises it made in previous trade talks.

The Chinese are widely expected to agree to buy substantially more American products—likely including soybeans and natural gas—to help narrow the United States' trade deficit in goods and services with China, which hit a record $379 billion last year. America's trade deficit with China has been a chronic complaint of Trump, although many economists say a bilateral trade gap is relatively insignificant.

May: UK to seek further Brexit delay, try to break logjam

LONDON (AP)—With Britain racing toward a chaotic exit from the European Union within days, Prime Minister Theresa May veered away from the cliff-edge Tuesday, saying she would seek another Brexit delay and hold talks with the opposition to seek a compromise.

May made the announcement after the EU's chief negotiator warned that a disruptive and costly Brexit was likely unless Britain broke the impasse that has paralyzed the government and Parliament.

After failing repeatedly to win Parliament's backing for her Brexit blueprint, May said the country needed "national unity to deliver the national interest."

Following the defeat of the government's plan and a range of lawmaker-written alternatives, May said Britain would need a further delay to its EU departure, currently scheduled for April 12. She offered to hold talks with opposition Labour Party leader Jeremy Corbyn in an attempt to find a compromise solution.

"This debate, this division, cannot drag on much longer," May said in a televised statement from 10 Downing St. after an all-day Cabinet meeting.

European Council President Donald Tusk gave a cautious welcome to May's change of course.

"Even if, after today, we don't know what the end result will be, let us be patient," he tweeted—a suggestion the EU would wait for Britain to present a clear plan.

Earlier, EU negotiator Michel Barnier offered a downbeat assessment of the situation.

"As things stand now, the no-deal option looks likely. I have to tell you the truth," Barnier said in Brussels.

Barnier said "we can still hope to avoid it" if London produced a breakthrough before an April 10 EU summit.

The leaders of the EU's 27 remaining countries have given the U.K. until April 12 to leave the bloc or to come up with a new plan, after British lawmakers thrice rejected an agreement struck between the bloc and May late last year.

The House of Commons has also failed to find a majority for any alternative plan in two days of voting on multiple options.

May's statement came after a seven-hour meeting of her fractious Cabinet, which is split between supporters of a "soft Brexit" that keeps close economic ties with the EU, and Brexiteers who believe a no-deal exit is better than compromising.

May's words seemed to indicate that she was veering away from the possibility of a no-deal Brexit—but also that she has not given up on her own unloved withdrawal agreement.

Scammers peddling bogus tax breaks find traction on Facebook

Hundreds of ads on Facebook promised U.S. homeowners that they were eligible for huge state tax breaks if they installed new solar-energy panels. There was just one catch: None of it was true.

The scam ads used photos of nearly every U.S. governor—and sometimes President Donald Trump—to claim that with new, lucrative tax incentives, people might actually make money by installing solar technology on their homes. Facebook users only needed to enter their addresses, email, utility information and phone number to find out more.

Those incentives don't exist.

While the ads didn't aim to bilk people of money directly—and it wasn't possible to buy solar panels through these ads—they led to websites that harvested personal information that could be used to expose respondents to future come-ons, both scammy and legitimate. It's not clear that the data was actually used in such a manner.

Facebook apparently didn't take action until notified by state-government officials who noticed the ads.

The fictitious notices reveal how easily scammers can pelt internet users with misinformation for months, undetected. They also raise further questions about whether big tech companies such as Facebook are capable of policing misleading ads, especially as the 2020 elections—and the prospect of another onslaught of online misinformation—loom.

"This is definitely concerning—definitely, it's misinformation," said Young Mie Kim, a University of Wisconsin-Madison professor who studied 5 million Facebook ads during the 2016 elections. "I keep telling people: We don't have any basis to regulate such a thing."

Experts say websites and apps need to be more transparent about the ads that run on their platforms.

Last year, Facebook launched a searchable database that provides details on political ads it runs, including who bought them and the age and gender of the audience. But it didn't make that information available for other ads until Thursday, when it announced it was expanding the database to include all active ads. Twitter offers its own database of ads and promoted tweets. Google has an archive for political ads only.

The partial approaches allow misleading ads to fester. One problem is the fact that ads can be targeted so narrowly that journalists and watchdog groups often won't see them.

"That allows people to do more dirty tricks," said Ian Vanderwalker, senior counsel at the Brennan Center for Justice's Democracy Program.

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British Pound	0.7610	Indian Rupee	67.9531	Singapore Dollar	1.3532
Canadian Dollar	1.3312	Japanese Yen	111.4370	South Korean Won	1114.80
Chinese Yuan	6.5917	Malaysian Ringgit	4.0381	Swiss Franc	0.9976
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Nation

US expands 'catch and release' amid surge in migrants

EL PASO, Texas (AP)—The surge of migrant families arriving at the southern border has led the Trump administration to dramatically expand a practice President Donald Trump has long mocked as "catch and release."

With immigrant processing and holding centers overwhelmed, the administration is busing people hundreds of miles inland and releasing them at Greyhound stations and churches in cities like Albuquerque, San Antonio and Phoenix because towns close to the border already have more than they can handle.

Relief organizations in some cities are struggling to feed and house the migrants and warning that a public health crisis is taking shape, especially with sick infants and children among the many immigrant families who need medical attention.

"We're asking volunteer doctors and nurses and community members to step up and do what the government should be doing. If this was a hurricane, FEMA would be on the ground helping," said Jim Gannon, CEO and executive director of Catholic Charities in Albuquerque, New Mexico.

For many years, families arriving at the border were typically released from U.S. custody immediately and allowed to settle in this country with family or friends while their cases wound their way through the courts, a process that often takes years.

Trump has railed against the practice, tweeting in November that it was over: "Catch and Release is an obsolete term. It is now Catch and Detain. Illegal Immigrants trying to come into the U.S.A., often proudly flying the flag of their nation as they ask for U.S. Asylum, will be detained or turned away."

But in recent months, the number of families crossing into the U.S. has climbed to record highs, pushing the system to the breaking point. As a result, the government is releasing families faster, in greater numbers and at points farther removed from the border.

Since Dec. 21, Immigration and Customs Enforcement has set free more than 125,000 people who came into the U.S. as families.

Customs and Border Protection is also overloaded, and instead of holding families for up to 72 hours before turning them over to ICE, it has started releasing them directly into the U.S.

"The numbers are overwhelming right now," said Gregory Archambault, ICE director of enforcement and removal operations in San Diego. "Everybody is stressed. The agency is stressed, the (local governments) are stressed, the law enforcement agencies. Everybody is stressed because there are these mass numbers of people."

ICE has been releasing asylum-seeking families so quickly that they don't even have time to make travel arrangements. Families are given court dates, a head of household is often fitted with an ankle monitor, and they are dropped off at a charity-run shelter or bus station.

San Antonio received part of that surge in recent days, forcing the city to open a help center with food for migrants.

In El Paso, where shelters and churches are at capacity and seats on buses headed out of the city are getting harder to find, authorities briefly resorted to holding migrants in a pen lined with concertina wire under the shade of a bridge that connects the American city to Juarez, Mexico. They closed the makeshift holding area over the weekend and moved the migrants to a place with more shelter.

AP
Immigrants from Central America seeking asylum board a bus, Tuesday, April 2, 2019, in downtown San Antonio.

Chinese woman carrying malware allegedly got into Mar-a-Lago

FORT LAUDERDALE, Fla. (AP)—A woman carrying two Chinese passports and a device containing computer malware lied to Secret Service agents and briefly gained admission to President Donald Trump's Mar-a-Lago club over the weekend during his Florida visit, federal prosecutors allege in court documents.

Yujing Zhang, 32, approached a Secret Service agent at a checkpoint outside the Palm Beach club early Saturday afternoon and said she was a member who wanted to use the pool, court documents said. She showed the passports as identification.

Agents say she wasn't on the membership list, but a club manager thought Zhang was the daughter of a member. Agents say that when they asked Zhang if the member was her father, she did not answer definitively but they thought it might be a language barrier and admitted her.

Zhang's story changed when she got inside, agents say, telling a front desk receptionist she was there to attend the United Nations Chinese American Association event scheduled for that evening. No such event was scheduled and agents were summoned.

Agent Samuel Ivanovich wrote in court documents that Zhang told him that she was there for the Chinese American event and had come early to familiarize herself with the club and take photos, again contradicting what she had said at the checkpoint. She showed him an invitation in Chinese that he could not read.

He said Zhang was taken off the grounds and told she could not be there. Ivanovich said she became argumentative, so she was taken to the local Secret Service office for questioning.

There, he said, it became clear Zhang speaks and reads English well. He said Zhang said she had traveled from Shanghai to attend the nonexistent Mar-a-Lago event on the invitation of an acquaintance named "Charles," whom she only knew through a Chinese social media app. Ivanovich said she then denied telling the checkpoint agents she was a member wanting to swim.

Ivanovich said Zhang carried four cellphones, a laptop computer, an external hard drive and a thumb drive containing computer malware. She did not have a swimsuit.

"While the Secret Service does not determine who is permitted to enter the club, our agents and officers conduct physical screenings to ensure no prohibited items are allowed onto the property," a U.S. Secret Service spokesperson said in a statement. "This access does not afford an individual proximity to the President or other Secret Service protectees. In such instances, additional screening and security measures are employed."

Zhang is charged with making false statements to federal agents and illegally entering a restricted area. She remains in custody pending a hearing next week. Her public defender, Robert Adler, declined comment.

There is no indication Zhang was ever near the president. There is also no indication that she is connected to Li Yang, a Chinese native, Republican donor and former Florida massage parlor owner.

Yang recently made news after it was learned she was promising Chinese business leaders that her consulting firm could get them access to Mar-a-Lago, where they could mingle with the president.

ACROSS THE NATION

Ex-governor candidate found guilty in murder-for-hire plot

OKLAHOMA CITY (AP)—A federal jury on Tuesday convicted a former Oklahoma gubernatorial candidate and zookeeper in an attempted murder-for-hire plot. Jurors returned the guilty verdict following six days of testimony in the trial of Joseph Allen Maldonado-Passage, 56, who was accused of trying to arrange the killing of Florida animal sanctuary founder Carole Baskin, who criticized his treatment of animals. Baskin wasn't harmed. Maldonado-Passage, known as "Joe Exotic," was also found guilty in the deaths of five tigers, and selling and offering to sell tiger cubs in violation of the Endangered Species Act. U.S. District Judge Scott Palk did not set a sentencing date for Maldonado-Passage, who could face more than 20 years in prison. Maldonado-Passage testified in his own defense on Monday that although disagreements with Baskin spilled over into his social media posts, he never truly wanted her dead. Prosecutors say Maldonado-Passage offered $10,000 to an undercover FBI agent to kill Baskin during a December 2017 meeting that was recorded and played for the jury last week. In the recording, he told the agent, "Just like follow her into a mall parking lot and just cap her and drive off."

3 ex-Penn State frat members get jail in pledge's death case

BELLEFONTE, Pa. (AP)—Three ex-Penn State fraternity brothers have been sentenced to jail on hazing charges in connection to the February 2017 death of a student pledging the fraternity. The Centre Daily Times reports that sentences handed down Tuesday to the three former Beta Theta Pi members range from 30 days to three months in jail. Michael Bonatucci, Luke Visser and Joshua Kurczewski all previously pleaded guilty to various charges related to the death of 19-year-old Timothy Piazza of Lebanon, New Jersey. Piazza had consumed a large amount of alcohol on pledge bid acceptance night in 2017 and was fatally injured in a series of falls.

SC senator: Elementary school fight was just small scuffle

COLUMBIA, S.C. (AP)—A fifth grader who died after a fight last week at a South Carolina elementary school exchanged shoves and slaps with the other student but didn't initially appear to suffer any serious injuries, the state senator who represents the area said Tuesday. Sen. Margie Bright Matthews said she is trying to stop the rush to blame the substitute teacher in the classroom, administrators or the other girl involved in the March 25 fight at Forest Hills Elementary School in Walterboro. Bright Matthews said the two girls had been arguing much of the day when they started pushing and slinging their arms at each other. She said the confrontation lasted less than a minute. "I've heard a lot of people saying, oh they were kicking her. They ganged her. None of that. That is so far from the truth," Bright Matthews said from the Senate floor. An assistant principal was nearby and escorted the girls to the principal's office as they kept arguing, Bright Matthews said.

Asia

Australian senator censured for blaming Muslim victims

CANBERRA, Australia (AP)—An Australian senator was censured by his colleagues on Wednesday for seeking to blame the victims of last month's mosque shootings and vilify Muslims.

Sen. Fraser Anning was the target of widespread condemnation for blaming the attack in New Zealand on immigration policies. He faced more criticism later for physically striking a teenager who cracked a raw egg on his head in a viral incident in Melbourne.

On Parliament's second sitting day since the March 15 attack in which 50 people died, government and opposition lawmakers moved the censure motion against Anning for divisive comments "seeking to attribute blame to victims of a horrific crime and to vilify people on the basis of religion, which do not reflect the opinions of the Australian Senate or the Australian people."

"Sen. Anning's comments were ugly and divisive. They were dangerous and unacceptable from anyone, let alone a member of this place," Government Senate Leader Mathias Cormann told the Senate.

Anning dismissed the censure motion as an attack on free speech. "It is also an exercise in left-wing virtue signaling of the worst kind," he told the Senate before the vote.

He sits as an independent lawmaker after defecting from the anti-Muslim One Nation party, whose two senators abstained from the censure vote.

AP

Australian Senator Fraser Anning gives a speech in Parliament House in Canberra, Australia, Wednesday, April 3, 2019.

One Nation Sen. Peter Georgiou read a speech on behalf of party leader Pauline Hanson, who was absent.

Hanson said while Anning's comments were "untimely and therefore deemed highly insensitive, he still maintains a right to his opinion."

"If One Nation endorses your action to censure Sen. Anning, your freedom of speech as elected members of this chamber will be removed," the speech said.

A day after the Christchurch attacks, Anning faced more criticism for physically striking the teenager who cracked an egg on his head at a Melbourne public appearance—17-year-old Will Connolly, who became known around the world as "Egg Boy."

Anning on Wednesday criticized Prime Minister Scott Morrison for saying at the time that Anning should "be subject to the full force of the law" for his retaliation against Connolly. Police investigated the altercation but no charges have been announced.

"It might have only been an idiot with an egg this time, but there is a continuum that begins with this and ends with a fanatic with a gun or a bomb," Anning said.

"But apparently, according to Prime Minister Morrison, that's OK, as long as the victims are conservatives," he added.

After New Zealand Prime Minister Jacinda Ardern previously called Anning's comments on the shootings "a disgrace," her deputy Winston Peters on Tuesday called Anning a "jingoistic moron."

Anning came under blistering criticism over tweets within hours of the massacre, including one that said, "Does anyone still dispute the link between Muslim immigration and violence?"

"The real cause of the bloodshed on New Zealand streets today is the immigration program which allowed Muslim fanatics to migrate to New Zealand in the first place," he said in a later statement.

Australian white supremacist Brenton Tarrant has been charged with murder in the shootings and is due to appear in a New Zealand court on Friday.

Philippine Supreme Court orders release of drug war evidence

MANILA, Philippines (AP)—The Philippine Supreme Court on Tuesday ordered the release of police documents on thousands of killings of suspects in the president's anti-drug crackdown, in a ruling that human rights groups said could shed light on allegations of extrajudicial killings.

Supreme Court spokesman Brian Keith Hosaka said the court ordered the government solicitor-general to provide the police reports to two rights groups which had sought them. The 15-member court, whose justices are meeting in northern Baguio city, has yet to rule on a separate petition to declare President Rodrigo Duterte's anti-drug campaign unconstitutional.

Solicitor-General Jose Calida had earlier agreed to release the voluminous police documents to the court but rejected the requests of the two groups, the Free Legal Assistance Group and the Center for International Law, arguing that such a move would undermine law enforcement and national security.

The two groups welcomed the court order.

"It's a big step forward for transparency and accountability," said Jose Manuel "Chel" Diokno, who heads the Free Legal Assistance Group.

He said the documents will help the group of human rights lawyers scrutinize the police-led crackdown that was launched when Duterte came to office in mid-2016, and the massive number of killings that the president and police say occurred when suspects fought back and endangered law enforcers, Diokno said.

"This is an emphatic statement by the highest court of the land that it will not allow the rule of law to be trampled upon in the war on drugs. It is a very important decision," said Joel Butuyan, president of the Center for International Law.

"These documents are the first step toward the long road to justice for the petitioners and for thousands of victims of the 'war on drugs' and their families," Butuyan said.

More than 5,000 mostly poor drug suspects have died in purported gunbattles with the police, alarming Western governments, U.N. rights experts and human rights watchdogs. Duterte has denied ordering illegal killings, although he has publicly threatened drug suspects with death.

The thousands of killings have sparked the submission of two complaints of mass murder to the International Criminal Court. Duterte has withdrawn the Philippines from the court.

After holding public deliberations on the two groups' petitions in 2017, the Supreme Court ordered the solicitor-general to submit documents on the anti-drug campaign, including the list of people killed in police drug raids from July 1, 2016, to Nov. 30, 2017, and documents on many other suspected drug-linked deaths in the same period that were being investigated by police.

Japan govt says era name translates as 'beautiful harmony'

TOKYO (AP)—Japan's government said Tuesday that the official translation of the era name for the new emperor will be "Beautiful Harmony," setting off confusion while offices rush to make changes before Crown Prince Naruhito takes the throne.

The era of "Reiwa" begins May 1, a day after 85-year-old Emperor Akihito abdicates and hands over the chrysanthemum throne to his elder son.

The cultural importance of the imperial family and the secretive naming process created a frenzy of attention for the announcement of the era name on Monday.

Prime Minister Shinzo Abe said the name, composed of two Chinese characters, was taken for the first time from an ancient Japanese book instead of from Chinese classics. He said it comes from a section about plum blossoms in Manyoshu, a poetry anthology from the 7th-8th centuries, and suggests that "culture is born and nurtured as the people's hearts are beautifully drawn together."

Abe did not say which of a range of meanings for each of the two Chinese characters applied to the era name.

Experts and media had a variety of interpretations of the meaning, and initial reports generally settled on "pursuing harmony." The first character can also mean order, rule, good or auspicious. The second can mean peace, reconciliation or soft.

A Foreign Ministry official gave the official translation Tuesday.

"'Reiwa' is best interpreted as 'beautiful harmony,'" said Masaru Sato, the deputy consul-general and director of the Japan Information Center in New York. "'Reiwa' refers to the beauty of plum blossoms after a tough winter, and is taken to mean the beauty of people when they bring their hearts together to cultivate a culture."

However, some experts said the first Chinese character, "Rei," today is most widely thought to mean "order," "command" and "dictate," with an authoritarian tone.

Historians and experts on the monarchy noted that an 1864 era name proposal of "Reitoku" using the same first character was rejected by the Tokugawa Shogunate, which said it sounded like the emperor was commanding Tokugawa.

"The name sounds as if we are ordered to achieve peace, rather than doing so proactively," Kazuto Hongo, a University of Tokyo historian, said on TV Asahi.

Yoshinori Kobayashi, a conservative cartoonist who has written books on Japanese emperors, said the character "Rei" portrays "the people kneeling down under the crown. It's meaning, after all, is a command of a monarch or a ruler. ... It is inevitable that 'Reiwa' gives a somewhat cold impression."

As discussions of the era name dominated Japanese newspapers and television talk shows, stores began selling Reiwa goods.

A bakery in Tokyo sold cupcakes decorated with Reiwa toppings, and sweet bean cakes carrying Reiwa logos quickly sold out at a souvenir shop inside Japan's parliament building. Some bookstores set up Manyoshu sections, and many editions of the anthology were out of stock on Amazon. Department stores were planning to sell gold coins emblazoned with Reiwa.

The announcement gives the government, businesses and people only a month to adjust to a change that affects many parts of Japanese society, though the emperor has no political power under Japan's postwar constitution. Era names are still widely used in government and business documents and on calendars. Many people use them to identify generations and historical periods.

Discussing an era change in advance was not considered a taboo this time because Akihito is abdicating, a highly unusual step.

World

Algerian president steps down amid protests, army pressure

ALGIERS, Algeria (AP)—Algerian President Abdelaziz Bouteflika stepped down on Tuesday after 20 years in office, and six weeks of massive nationwide protests aimed at pushing him and his much-criticized inner circle from power to create a real democracy in the gas-rich nation.

The announcement followed soon after a sternly-worded call from the powerful army chief for Bouteflika, 82 and ailing, to "immediately" bow out.

Crowds celebrated peacefully in the capital Algiers soon after his announcement. Honking car horns, singing songs and waving Algerian flags, hundreds gathered Tuesday night at the central post office—a plaza that has become a symbol of the protest movement. Police watched from the sidelines.

The Constitutional Council was expected to convene Wednesday to formalize his departure. Under the constitution, the president of the upper house, the Council of Nations, steps in as interim leader for a maximum of 90 days so that elections can be organized.

The current upper house president is Abdelkader Bensalah, a Bouteflika ally—and it's unclear whether protesters will abandon their fight for an overhaul of the entire power structure.

An official in the president's office told The Associated Press that Bouteflika had resigned, and the official APS news agency said in a full-page headline that Bouteflika had notified the Constitutional Council of his decision.

The move came a day after Bouteflika's office said he would leave by April 28, the official end of his fourth mandate—but only after "important" changes were made to ensure institutional continuity. That gave rise to fears that his entourage would do all to preserve the interests of those who profited from his time in office.

There was no word about what would happen to the presidential entourage, including younger brother Said Bouteflika, a top counselor blamed by protesters for widespread corruption in the North African country with a high unemployment rate and drastic gap between the rich and poor.

Earlier Tuesday, military chief of staff Gen. Ahmed Gaid Salah convened a meeting of the top military hierarchy. That made clear that the army chief's call for Bouteflika to desist had the backing of the military—among the most important on the African continent.

In a communique, the Defense Ministry referred to Bouteflika's entourage as a "gang" and said it had made "fraud, embezzlement and duplicity its vocation."

Bouteflika has rarely been seen in public since a 2013 stroke.

His resignation caps six weeks of peaceful marches by protesters who wanted not just Bouteflika but the entire system to make an exit.

As the protests escalated, Bouteflika announced two new governments and army chief Gaid Salah urged Bouteflika to submit to Article 102 of the Constitution, which would declare him unfit for office. Gaid Salah also called for the application of two more articles championed by protesters, notably Article 7, which stipulates that "the people are the source of power."

Tensions had been mounting in recent days between the army chief and the president's entourage—along with suspicions of a potential military coup.

The Defense Ministry statement Tuesday appeared to be a final warning, and the catalyst for Bouteflika's resignation.

Bouteflika was an independence fighter during Algeria's war against colonizer France in the 1950s and 1960s, and then went on to defend Third World interests at the height of the Cold War as Algeria's foreign minister.

AP
People celebrate after ailing Algerian President Abdelaziz Bouteflika quit Tuesday April 2, 2019 in Algiers.

Maduro loyalists strip interim president Guaido of immunity

CARACAS, Venezuela (AP)—Maduro loyalists stripped Venezuela's Juan Guaidó of immunity Tuesday, paving the way for the opposition leader's prosecution and potential arrest for supposedly violating the constitution when he declared himself interim president.

But whether the government of President Nicolas Maduro will take action against the 35-year-old lawmaker following the Constituent Assembly's decision remains unclear. Guaidó has embarked on an international campaign to topple the president's socialist administration amid deepening social unrest in the country plagued by nearly a month of power outages .

He declared himself Venezuela's interim president in January, and vowed to overthrow Maduro. So far, however, Maduro has avoided jailing the man that the administration of U.S. President Donald Trump and roughly 50 other nations recognize as Venezuela's legitimate leader.

A defiant Guaidó spoke publicly moments after the vote, saying he's undeterred, while knowing he runs the risk of being "kidnapped" by the Maduro government.

"We are aware of that," Guaido said. "But we will not change our path."

He cited low wages driving millions abroad and the spate of blackouts that have crippled the nation's public transportation, water services and communications.

The Trump administration has threatened the Maduro government with a strong response if Guaido is harmed and Florida Senator Marco Rubio—who has Trump's ear on Venezuela policy—said before the vote that nations recognizing Guaidó as his country's legitimate leader should take any attempt by Maduro's government to "abduct" him as a coup.

"And anyone who cooperates with this should be treated as a coup plotter & dealt with accordingly," Rubio said on Twitter.

However, the vote against Guaidó was unanimous, and Constituent Assembly president and socialist party boss Diosdado Cabello accused the opposition of naively inviting a foreign invasion and of inciting a civil war.

"They don't care about the deaths," Cabello said. "They don't have the slightest idea ??what the consequences of war are for a country."

The Constituent Assembly, which is made up entirely of Maduro loyalists, met a day after Maduro ally and Venezuela Supreme Court of Justice Maikel Moreno ordered it to strip Guaidó's immunity for violating an order banning him leaving the country while under investigation by the attorney general. The opposition leader is also accused of inciting violence through street protests, and of receiving illicit funds from abroad.

The Constitution guarantees immunity for elected officials, and says that in order to withdraw immunity the accused lawmaker must be given a preliminary hearing before the Supreme Court. The action must be approved by the National Assembly—steps that weren't taken in Guaidó's case.

WORLD BRIEFS

Mozambique cholera cases now above 1,400; vaccines arrive

BEIRA, Mozambique (AP)—Cholera cases in cyclone-hit Mozambique have risen above 1,400, government officials said Tuesday, as hundreds of thousands of vaccine doses arrived in an attempt to limit the rapid spread of the disease. Authorities announced a second death from cholera, which causes acute diarrhea and is spread by contaminated food and water—conditions that some 128,000 displaced cyclone survivors now risk daily while living in temporary, often crowded, shelters. Cholera can kill within hours if not treated. The cholera outbreak has grown swiftly since it was declared last week with five confirmed cases. Now there are 1,428, most of them in the hard-hit port city of Beira, which has been the hub of relief efforts since Cyclone Idai roared in on March 14. The city of a half-million residents is most at risk from cholera but the disease also is reported in outlying communities in central Mozambique. The new death was in Dondo, government officials said. Monday's count of cholera cases had been 1,052.

Pope: Women have 'legitimate claims' for justice, equality

VATICAN CITY (AP)—Pope Francis said in a document released Tuesday that women have "legitimate claims" to seek more equality in the Catholic Church, but he stopped short of endorsing recent calls from his own bishops to give women leadership roles. In the text, Francis also told young adults they should try to help priests at risk for sexually abusing minors in what a Vatican official said was a great act of trust the pope has for today's youth to help "priests in difficulty." Francis issued the document, known as an apostolic exhortation, in response to an October 2018 meeting of the world's bishops on better ministering to today's young Catholics. The synod took place against the Church's clergy sex abuse crisis and included demands for greater women's rights. The bishops' final recommendations called the need for women to hold positions of responsibility and decision-making in the church "a duty of justice." In the new document reflecting at length on the October meeting, Francis did not echo that sweeping conclusion. Instead, he wrote that a church that listens to young people must be attentive to women's "legitimate claims" for equality and justice, as well as better train both men and women with leadership potential.

Small plane crashes in North Macedonia, 4 feared dead

SKOPJE, North Macedonia (AP)—Authorities in North Macedonia say a small private plane has crashed into a mountain in a central region of the country and all four Bulgarian nationals on board are feared dead. National Commission for Air Accidents head Zoran Ilievski told The Associated Press police helicopters have located the plane's wreckage and bodies in unapproachable snow-covered terrain near the 2,500-meter (8,200-foot) summit of Mount Jakupica. Civil aviation official Nikolce Taseski said the Cessna aircraft was traveling from North Macedonia's town of Ohrid to the Bulgarian capital Sofia. It went missing from radar systems at 4:16 p.m. local time (1416 GMT) Tuesday. He said the pilot initially sought permission to land at Skopje's airport, reporting strong turbulence, but later asked to continue to Sofia. Rescuers will try to approach the location Wednesday.

Environment

Why the next decade will be critical in the fight against CLIMATE CHANGE

TNS
A picture taken on March 6, 2018 from Plomodiern, western France, shows an electric windmill farm.

By JULIA ROSEN
LOS ANGELES TIMES

To Andrew Wheeler, the head of the Environmental Protection Agency, global warming is a problem for the future. "Most of the threats from climate change are 50 to 75 years out," he said in a recent interview, expressing a common sentiment.

But scientists say that taking action on climate change is very much a challenge of the present.

"The next decade is really critical," said Joeri Rogelj, a climate scientist at Imperial College London.

That's not just because the impacts of rising temperatures — from severe storms to surging seas — are already apparent. It's also because limiting future damage requires bold moves to reduce carbon dioxide and other greenhouse gas emissions today.

Think of it like steering a huge ship, said Drew Shindell, a climate scientist at Duke University: "You have to turn way in advance because it takes a long time."

Under the 2015 Paris climate accord, countries agreed to limit warming to "well below" 2 degrees Celsius (about 3.6 degrees Fahrenheit) over preindustrial temperatures, and to aim for a goal of 1.5 degrees C (about 2.7 degrees F).

Hitting the lower target would reduce extreme weather events, spare more species from extinction and make it easier for people to adapt to what will still be a significantly altered world, according to a 2018 report by the Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change.

But meeting either climate goal is a tall order.

Next week, scientists will gather in Scotland to consider the options as they start preparing the next major IPCC report. There's little debate that keeping warming to 1.5 degrees will require sweeping efforts to reduce greenhouse gas emissions in the next few years.

It's a matter of accounting: Humans have already unleashed enough greenhouse gases to raise the planet's average temperature by about 1 degree C. At current rates, we will emit enough in the next 10 years to all but guarantee another half-degree of warming.

Whether humanity should change course is a political question, not a scientific one. But if we decide to try, researchers say emissions must stop increasing and then plunge within the next decade.

Last year's IPCC report, which Rogelj and Shindell helped write, surveyed the results of hundreds of scientific studies and concluded that emissions must drop to roughly half of 2010 levels by 2030 to maintain a decent shot at 1.5 degrees. By 2050 or so, carbon emissions must fall to zero, or close to it. (Hard-to-cut sources of greenhouse gases, like airplanes, will have to be offset to reach what scientists refer to as "net zero" emissions.)

Aiming for 2 degrees gives the world an additional 25 years, more or less, to decarbonize the economy, Rogelj said. Even so, the task will get much harder if society doesn't start curbing emissions before the decade is up.

"If we already start to put the world on a declining path, with a clear trajectory towards net zero, that would be a huge achievement," he said.

Seeing into the future is never easy, and all of these timelines are inherently uncertain.

That's sometimes used as an excuse to delay, said Jonathan Lamontagne, a systems analyst at Tufts University. But he thinks it's a reason to mobilize sooner — in case the job turns out to be even harder than researchers expect.

Consider the problem of climate sensitivity, a measure of how the planet responds to greenhouse gas emissions. It's usually defined as the increase in temperature that results from doubling the concentration of atmospheric CO2 from 280 parts per million — the preindustrial level — to 560 ppm. (It's now reached 412 ppm.)

But the exact figure has proved difficult to pin down. Scientists think climate sensitivity lies somewhere between 0.8 and 2.5 degrees while CO2 levels are still changing, as they are now, and between 1.5 and 4.5 degrees once the planet has settled into a new equilibrium.

Researchers have tried to narrow these estimates by analyzing the relationship between past emissions and historical warming trends. However, some of the activities that produce greenhouse gases, like burning coal, also produce aerosol particles that temporarily cool the planet.

"That makes it so tricky," said Gabriele Hegerl, a climate scientist at the University of Edinburgh.

The true value of climate sensitivity will largely determine how much warming we have in store due to greenhouse gases we've already emitted, and how much carbon we can emit in the future and still meet climate targets.

If sensitivity lands on the high end of the range, we've probably missed our shot at limiting warming to even 2 degrees, according to a study this month in Nature Climate Change. "It might actually be too late," said Lamontagne, who led the study.

If we happen to live in a moderately sensitive world, we still have a chance, but only if CO2 emissions fall to zero by 2030, Lamontagne said.

Recent estimates of transient climate sensitivity point to somewhat lower numbers; if so, we have until midcentury to curtail emissions. But scientists say that's no reason to dally.

"You still have to do a lot — and do it soon," Hegerl said.

In the long run, the bigger factor controlling Earth's temperature is how much we manage to reduce emissions in the next decade, Lamontagne said.

"Our actions today are going to lock future generations in to a climate that they'll have very little control over," he said

Scientists have explored how the world might meet its goals under various circumstances, using models that consider the laws of both physics and economics, in hopes of bracketing the range of possibilities.

There is no single way to tackle climate change, but the scenarios that succeed share some common features: greater energy efficiency, a dramatic drop in coal use, a sharp increase in renewable energy that helps power electric vehicles and a shift toward more plant-based, climate-friendly diets.

In these scenarios, the changes happen around the world — and fast. Many are well underway by 2030.

Implementing them would be expensive, but theoretically feasible. The IPCC estimated that achieving a 1.5-degree world will require $2.4 trillion in clean energy investments every year until 2035. That's equivalent to 2.5 percent of the world's combined gross domestic product.

Lamontagne's team calculated the price tag could be as high as 3 percent or 4 percent of global GDP to max out at 2 degrees of warming by 2100.

Failing to act also carries a hefty cost. One study estimated that 4 degrees of warming would rob the world economy of $23 trillion per year; another found that by 2100, unmitigated climate change will reduce global incomes by 23 percent. The toll could reach hundreds of billions of dollars per year in the U.S. alone, according to a 2018 report commissioned by Congress.

Many of these costs stem from things like natural disasters that damage buildings and other infrastructure, and air pollution from burning fossil fuels that exacerbates respiratory and other diseases.

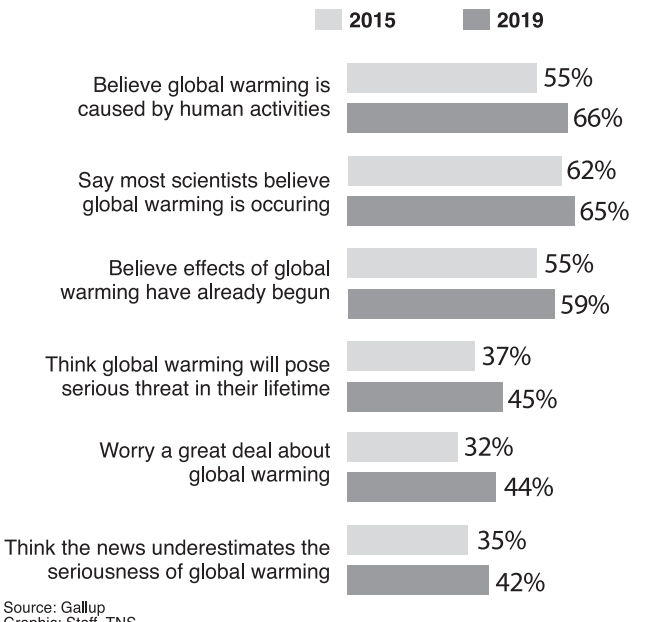
"The bills come as part of our medical insurance and home insurance and flood insurance," Shindell said.

Just the improved air quality from moving to clean fuels would save millions of lives per year, according to a study out this week.

Indeed, swift climate action is often a prerequisite not only for improving health but also for reducing poverty and inequality around the world, the IPCC found.

Whether society can change fast enough to meet the Paris climate goals is anyone's guess. Scientists can make estimates, but it's time to start experimenting in the real world, Rogelj said.

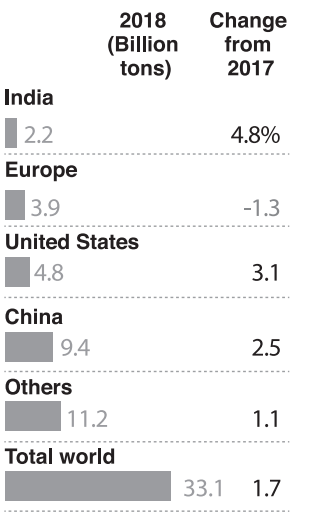
Americans' views on global warming



Source: Gallup
Graphic: Staff, TNS

Carbon emissions hit record high

Energy-related CO2 emissions rose by 1.7 percent to 33.1 billion ton from the previous year.



Source: International Energy Agency
Graphic: Staff, TNS

Life & Style

Police: Suspected killer of rapper Nipsey Hussle arrested

LOS ANGELES (AP)—Police on Tuesday arrested a man they say fatally shot rapper Nipsey Hussle and evaded authorities for two days.

Eric Holder, 29, was captured in Bellflower, a Los Angeles-area city about 20 miles southeast of Hussle's clothing store, where the musician was shot Sunday.

Hussle and Holder knew each other, and the two had some kind of personal dispute in the hours before the rapper was killed, Police Chief Michel Moore said.

Police released Holder's name and photo Monday night and asked for public's help in finding him.

It was not immediately clear how authorities located him. He was detained first by sheriff's deputies until LA police arrived and confirmed that he was wanted in Hussle's slaying, authorities said.

Holder

The two men had several arguments on Sunday, and Holder returned to the store with a handgun and opened fire on Hussle and two other men, who survived the shooting, police said.

The chief did not reveal how the two men were acquainted or offer any details about their dispute, but he emphasized it was a personal matter between Hussle and Holder. Hussle acknowledged that he was involved with a gang when he was younger, and police said Holder is a gang member, but the chief said gang rivalries played no role in the shooting.

After shooting Hussle and two other men who survived, Holder fled in a waiting car driven by a woman, the police chief said.

Moore had urged Holder to surrender, addressing him directly at a news conference Tuesday morning.

The police chief and the president of the city's Police Commission had been scheduled to meet with Hussle on Monday to discuss the relationship between the police force and the inner city.

Both Moore and Police Commission President Steve Soboroff said they were devastated when they learned Hussle had been killed on the eve of their talk.

An emotional Soboroff read from the email Hussle sent asking for the meeting.

"Our goal is to work with the department to help improve communication, relationships and work towards changing the culture and dialogue between LAPD and your city," Hussle said in the email.

A tense scene unfolded Monday night at an impromptu memorial for Hussle in the parking lot where he was shot. A man brandishing a gun caused a panicked stampede. At least 19 people were injured in the chaos, including two people who were taken to hospitals in critical condition, police said.

Avenatti confident 'justice will be done' in his fraud case

Attorney Michael Avenatti, center, arrives at federal court Monday, April 1, 2019, in Santa Ana, Calif. Avenatti appeared in federal court on charges he fraudulently obtained $4 million in bank loans and pocketed $1.6 million that belonged to a client. AP

SANTA ANA, Calif. (AP)—Michael Avenatti is insistent that "justice will be done" after facing fraud charges Monday in federal court in California, a week after the attorney famous for representing porn actress Stormy Daniels in legal battles against President Donald Trump was arrested in New York.

After a brief hearing in the Orange County city of Santa Ana, Avenatti said he has long represented "Davids versus Goliaths" in the same justice system in which he now is charged with bank and wire fraud.

"I am highly confident that when the process plays out, that justice will be done," he told a group of reporters outside the courthouse without taking questions.

Avenatti, 48, is charged in Southern California with filing bogus tax returns to fraudulently obtain $4 million in loans from a Mississippi bank and pocketing $1.6 million that belonged to a client.

He has long faced allegations from a former client and a former partner that he was hiding money to avoid paying what he owed them.

Now, federal authorities have added their voices to that chorus, with the specter of a long prison sentence that could be the downfall of a man who once considered challenging Trump in his reelection bid.

He was arrested last week in New York, where he was charged in a separate case with trying to extort millions of dollars from Nike. He was released on $300,000 bail and has said he expects to be exonerated.

On Monday, Avenatti waived his right to a preliminary hearing on the charges in California and was scheduled to be arraigned April 29. His lawyer said Avenatti may seek a waiver so his attorneys can enter a not-guilty plea on his behalf.

In New York, prosecutors allege that Avenatti tried to shake down Nike for millions of dollars so he wouldn't reveal allegations the apparel company paid off high school basketball players. He has denied the charge to reporters and began tweeting what he called evidence of the scandal the day after he was arrested.

Avenatti is known for his outspoken challenge of Trump and his lavish lifestyle. He represented Daniels in her claim that Trump paid her to keep quiet about their alleged affair ahead of the 2016 election.

Federal prosecutors said he rented a $100,000-a-month home in upscale Newport Beach for about a year, a claim that Avenatti called "completely false" in a Twitter post.

He also claimed loans to the Mississippi bank were repaid "years ago IN FULL."

A former partner of Avenatti's won a $10 million judgment against the law firm where they worked and is still seeking to collect it.

Barbara Bush saw Trump as a 'symbol of greed'

WASHINGTON (AP)—Barbara Bush didn't bite her tongue in recent years when it came to Donald Trump: She just didn't like him. But a new biography of the former first lady finds that her disdain for the Republican president, who transformed the party her own family had embodied for generations into his likeness, dates as least as far back as a 1990s diary entry.

She referred to Trump in the entry as "the real symbol of greed in the 80s."

Mrs. Bush, who was 92 when she died last April , gave Susan Page, author of "The Matriarch: Barbara Bush and the Making of an American Dynasty," access to volumes of her diaries, which she began keeping in 1948. The former first lady recounts in a January 1990 entry about reading a news article on Trump speaking at a Los Angeles charity awards dinner for Merv Griffin. Former President Ronald Reagan and his wife, Nancy, attended the gala, and Trump needled the former president over pricey speeches he had given in Japan.

Mrs. Bush later showed a friend news clips about Trump's separation from his first wife, Ivana, and noted that allies of the soon-to-be ex-Mrs. Trump were saying a $25 million settlement in the prenuptial agreement she signed wouldn't be enough.

"The Trumps are a new word, both of them," Mrs. Bush wrote. "Trump now means Greed, selfishness and ugly. So sad."

Her dislike of Trump spiked more recently over the way he belittled her son, Jeb, when the New York businessman and the former Florida governor competed for the 2016 Republican presidential nomination. Trump also had criticized other members of the Bush clan, including George W. Bush over starting wars in Iraq and Afghanistan.

Publicist: David Blaine denies sexual assault allegations

NEW YORK (AP)—David Blaine denies sexual assault allegations under investigation in New York City and intends to cooperate with authorities, his publicist said in a statement Tuesday.

Blaine

New York police confirmed Monday that the magician is under investigation, following a Daily Beast report that the department had taken statements from two women accusing Blaine of sexual assault.

Chief of Detectives Dermot Shea, speaking at an unrelated news conference, declined to discuss any details about Blaine's case and wouldn't say whether police had sought to interview him.

"David denies the accusations that have been reported and he takes these allegations seriously," the statement from Blaine's publicist said. "He intends to cooperate with any investigation."

The Daily Beast, citing unnamed sources, said one of Blaine's accusers alleges he attacked her inside his Manhattan apartment in 1998, which may fall outside the statute of limitations.

The Daily Beast had previously reported that a former model alleged Blaine raped her in London in 2004, an allegation he denied. Scotland Yard detectives later declined to take further action after investigating her claim, the news website said.

Blaine, 45, is known for stunts like being buried underground for a week without food or water in New York in 1999. He also lived in a plexiglass case suspended 30 feet (9 meters) above the Thames River in London for more than 40 days in 2003.

Blaine is scheduled to start a tour of the United Kingdom and Ireland in June, according to his website.

Loughlin, Huffman due in court in college admissions scam

BOSTON (AP)—Actresses Lori Loughlin and Felicity Huffman are expected in court Wednesday to face charges that they participated in a wide-ranging college admissions cheating scam.

The actresses along with Loughlin's fashion designer husband Mossimo Giannulli and dozens of others were charged last month in a scheme in which authorities say parents paid an admissions consultant to bribe college coaches and rig test scores to get their children into elite universities.

Neither Huffman nor Loughlin and Giannulli have publicly commented on the allegations. They and other parents are scheduled to make their first appearances in Boston's federal court.

Loughlin, who played Aunt Becky on the sitcom "Full House" in the 1980s and '90s, and Giannulli are accused of paying $500,000 to have their two daughters labeled as recruits to the University of Southern California crew team, even though neither participated in the sport.

Giannulli, whose Mossimo clothing had long been a Target brand, is also scheduled to appear in court Wednesday.

The Hallmark Channel—where Loughlin starred in popular holiday movies and the series "When Calls the Heart"—cut ties with Loughlin a day after her arrest.

Loughlin and Giannulli's daughter, social media star Olivia Jade Giannulli, has also been dropped from advertising deals with cosmetics retailer Sephora and hair products company TRESemme.

Huffman, the Emmy-winning star of ABC's "Desperate Housewives," is accused of paying $15,000 that she disguised as a charitable donation to cheat on her daughter's college entrance exam.

Among the other parents expected in the Boston court Wednesday is Gordon Caplan, former co-chairman of the international law firm Willkie Farr & Gallagher, based in New York.

Caplan is accused of paying $75,000 to get a test supervisor to correct the answers on his daughter's ACT exam after she took it. Caplan's firm said after his arrest that he has been placed on a leave of absence.

The consultant at the center of the scheme, Rick Singer, has pleaded guilty and is cooperating with investigators. Former Yale women's soccer coach Rudy Meredith has also pleaded guilty.

50 Cent sells opulent mansion

50 Cent

FARMINGTON, Conn. (AP)—Rapper 50 Cent's 50,000-square-foot mansion in Connecticut that first went on the market 12 years ago has finally sold at a fraction of the original asking price.

Jennifer Leahy, an agent at Douglas Elliman in Greenwich, tells the Hartford Courant the 21-bedroom. 25-bathroom home in Farmington was sold for $2.9 million.

The sale was first reported by The Wall Street Journal .

The rapper, whose real name is Curtis James Jackson III, asked $18.5 million for the 17-acre estate in 2007. Jackson purchased the mansion in 2004 from boxer Mike Tyson for $4.1 million, and then sank millions into it for renovations.

The home also has an indoor pool, a gym, racquetball courts and a dance room.

Leahy did not disclose the buyer.

'Harry Potter' books burned at Catholic parish in Poland

WARSAW, Poland (AP)—Priests at a Catholic parish in northern Poland have drawn criticism after they burned books, including from the "Harry Potter" series, and other items that their owners said had evil forces.

Images from the burning at Gdansk's Mother of Church parish on Sunday were posted on Facebook by Catholic foundation SMS z Nieba (SMS from Heaven,) which uses unconventional means to carry out its religious work.

In the pictures, flames are consuming an African wooden mask, a small Buddhist figure, figurines of elephants and books on personality and magic, as well as those by J.K. Rowling. They were all brought in by parishioners, who were encouraged by the priests to clear their homes of objects that had evil forces. Influential in Poland, the Catholic Church objects to "Harry Potter" books, which are international best-sellers, saying they promote sorcery.

In the photos, priests and altar boys can be seen watching the burning objects.

The foundation said the book burning was intended to alert parishioners to bad influences that it says come from magic and the occult.

Many comments under the Facebook postings condemned the book burning, recalling that also happened in Nazi Germany before World War II. Some said this taught hatred and asked if the next in line for burning were witches, like in the Middle Ages.

The event was criticized by the Rev. Wojciech Parafianowicz, spokesman for the diocese of Koszalin, where the foundation is based, who said he "did not like this form of priestly activity, which is wrong."

But, speaking with the wpolityce.pl news portal, Parafianowicz argued that the occult and magic "have a bad influence on human life."

AP

In this Wednesday Oct. 18, 2017 file photo, a member of British Library staff poses for a picture with Harry Potter books published in several languages at the «Harry Potter - A History of Magic» exhibition at the British Library, in London.

Social media sleuths take on mysterious herbalist Dr. Sebi

NEW YORK (AP)—Social media sleuths are lighting up their streams with conspiracy theories connecting the shooting death of Nipsey Hussle and an herbalist who claimed back in the 1980s that he had a cure for AIDS and other ailments.

Hussle, who was killed Sunday in Los Angeles, was reportedly working on a documentary about Dr. Sebi, who in 1985 beat New York allegations of practicing medicine without a license after his healing center ran newspaper advertisements claiming his diet of low alkaline foods cured patients with AIDS.

Sebi, born Alfredo Bowman, died in a Honduran jail cell in 2016 after his arrest for carrying large sums of cash into his native country. He was 82. The official cause was pneumonia. Some think Hussle's death is connected to the Sebi documentary because of a belief that there were forces trying to silence Sebi's health message, though there is no direct evidence of that.

Nick Cannon posted on Instagram that he'd like to carry on Hussle's work, not directly referencing the film. He has since posted photos and videos of Sebi along with mentions of Hussle. A Cannon representative said Tuesday that Cannon had not yet reached out to Hussle's loved ones about the film project, wanting to give them time to grieve.

Police have said they believe the man suspected of shooting Hussle outside his clothing store had a personal dispute with the rapper.

As for Sebi, one Twitter user, Chanda Prescod-Weinstein, summed it up this way:

"The real tragedy about Dr Sebi is that white scientists, including medical doctors, have experimented so much on Black people that a lot of Black people don't trust medicine or any other science. So be judgmental... but judge how we got here: whiteness."

Latest disagreement may end rocky five-year relationship

DEAR ABBY: My boyfriend of nearly five years and I have been at odds during most of our relationship. We have had religious-based disagreements, arguments over my not giving him enough affection, his not providing financially, possible cheating on his part, and his wanting me to have a better relationship with his mother.

For about a year he has been pressuring me to stop taking birth control pills. I was always adamant about taking them because I do not want to be pregnant before marriage. He claims I am "playing God," and "I don't know the potential harm the pills cause." I don't think the pills are harming me, and I feel I can do with my body what I please.

When he told me to stop taking birth control, I asked, "When are you going to propose?" He says he'll marry me once I trust him enough to stop taking the pills and believe he'll step up to the plate.

I trust that he wants to be with me, but I can't help but feel he wants me to go against my morals and values and get pregnant before marriage. I see a life for myself, and he doesn't seem to fit in my vision. I know no one is perfect, but I can't help but feel we clash on too many issues. Should I be more positive and look at the good things in our relationship and try to ignore the negative?

YOUNG PENNSYLVANIA WOMAN

DEAR WOMAN: If you see a life for yourself beyond this relationship, make up your mind to start living it NOW. Your boyfriend wants you to stop taking birth control pills because once you're pregnant (oops!) you will be tied to him for life, like it or not.

Step back. View this for a moment from my perspective: Here is someone with whom you have religious-based disagreements, who doesn't pull his weight financially, whom you can't trust not to cheat, and who will bring with him a guaranteed mother-in-law problem. It's time to do what you should have done years ago. Recognize that you can do much better than this and GET OUT OF THERE.

DEAR ABBY: My husband and I live in Washington state. My son and his family live in South Carolina. I have decided I want to move close to my son and grandchildren. My husband doesn't want to move there. He has never been to South Carolina, but he has preconceived notions about what the people are like and has decided he wants to stay on the West Coast.

I know what would make me happier, but I'd feel guilty about leaving my husband. We have been married 27 years. (He is my second husband; my first died when we were 36.) My son is from my first marriage.

I need some objective advice. Am I being selfish? Is it wrong for me to want to move to be with my family?

GUILTY ON THE WEST COAST

DEAR GUILTY: You ARE with your family—your husband. Have you explored how your son and his wife would feel about you pulling up stakes and moving there alone? If you haven't, you should, because they may not be comfortable feeling responsible for you and being your only social outlet.

Since you asked, I think it would be foolish to sacrifice a marriage (I assume a happy one) that has lasted more than a quarter of a century. It's possible that you could visit your son and grandchildren several times a year without jettisoning your spouse, and because planes fly both ways, they could visit the two of you as well.

What teens need to know about sex, drugs, AIDS and getting along with peers and parents is in "What Every Teen Should Know." Send your name and mailing address, plus check or money order for $8 (U.S. funds) to: Dear Abby, Teen Booklet, P.O. Box 447, Mount Morris, IL 61054-0447. (Shipping and handling are included in the price.)

DEAR ABBY

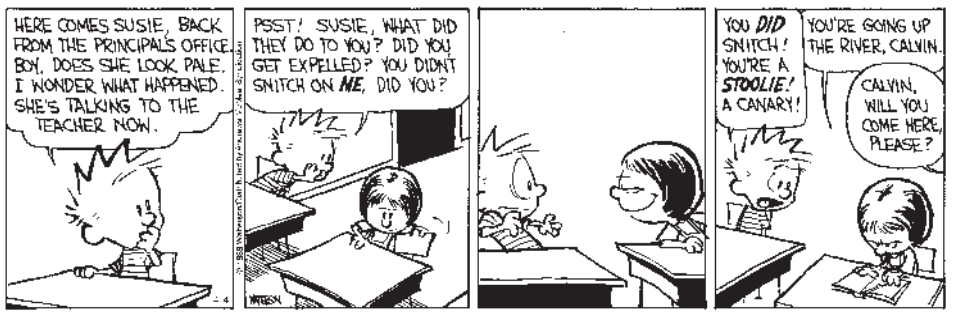
By ABIGAIL VAN BUREN
UNIVERSAL PRESS SYNDICATE

Dear Abby is written by Abigail Van Buren, also known as Jeanne Phillips, and was founded by her mother, Pauline Phillips. Contact Dear Abby at www.DearAbby.com or P.O. Box 69440, Los Angeles, CA 90069.

Pastimes

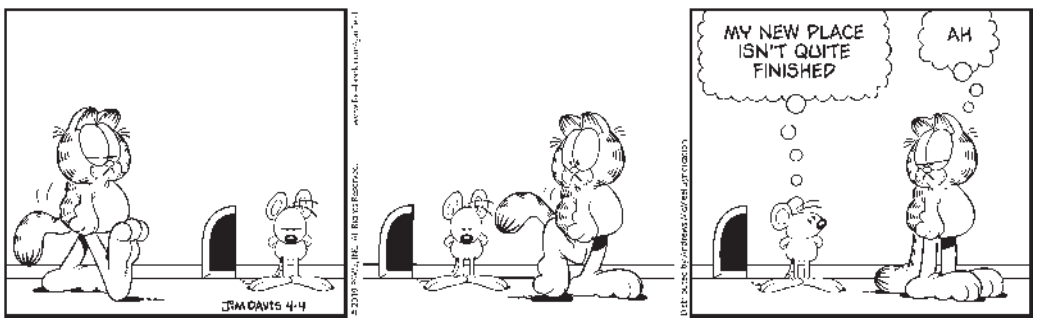
Calvin and Hobbes

By Bill Waterson


HERE COMES SUSIE, BACK FROM THE PRINCIPALS OFFICE. BOY, DOES SHE LOOK PALE. I WONDER WHAT HAPPENED. SHE'S TALKING TO THE TEACHER NOW.
PSST! SUSIE, WHAT DID THEY DO TO YOU? DID YOU GET EXPELLED? YOU DIDN'T SNITCH ON ME, DID YOU?
YOU DID SNITCH! YOU'RE A STOOLIE! A CANARY!
YOU'RE GOING UP THE RIVER, CALVIN.
CALVIN, WILL YOU COME HERE, PLEASE?

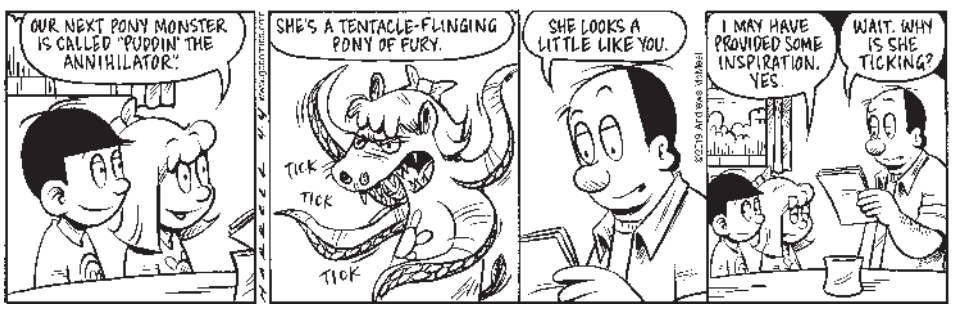
Garfield®

By Jim Davis



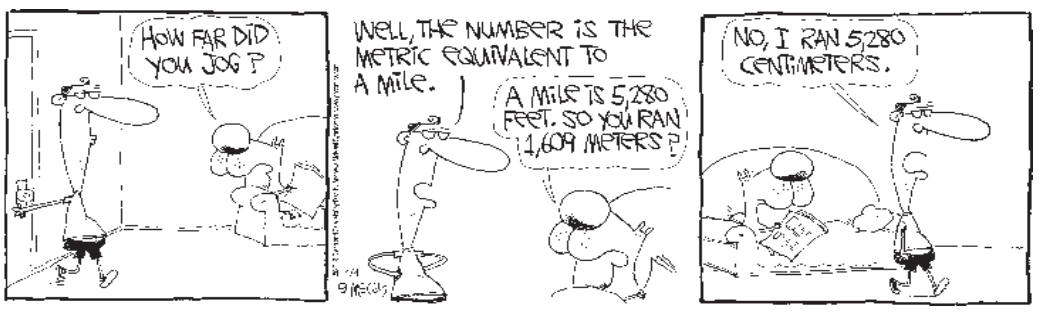
Adam@home

By Bryan Basset


OUR NEXT PONY MONSTER IS CALLED "PUDDIN' THE ANNIHILATOR."
SHE'S A TENTACLE-FLINGING PONY OF FURY.
TICK
TICK
TICK
SHE LOOKS A LITTLE LIKE YOU.
I MAY HAVE PROVIDED SOME INSPIRATION. YES.
WAIT. WHY IS SHE TICKING?

The Duplex

By Glenn McCoy


HOW FAR DID YOU JOG?
WELL, THE NUMBER IS THE METRIC EQUIVALENT TO A MILE.
A MILE IS 5,280 FEET. SO YOU RAN 1,609 METERS?
NO, I RAN 5,280 CENTIMETERS.

CROSSWORD

By Eugene Sheffer

ACROSS

1 Hotel amenity
4 Beach bucket
8 "— it going?"
12 Sandwich meat
13 Roughly
14 "Garfield" dog
15 Class that includes newts and frogs
17 Style
18 Corn serving
19 Took the helm
21 Clara of the Red Cross
24 Guffaw syllable
25 Lawyers' org.
26 Label
28 Potato, for one
32 Toy block name
34 "Uh-huh"
36 The Big Easy acronym
37 Put in office
39 Sea, to Henri
41 Kimono closer
42 Nanny's charge
44 Beach robe
46 Boris' cartoon partner
50 Twitch
51 Hgt.
52 Highway turnoff
56 Aachen article
57 Snitch
58 — -jongg
59 June honorees
60 Sheltered
61 Group of seals

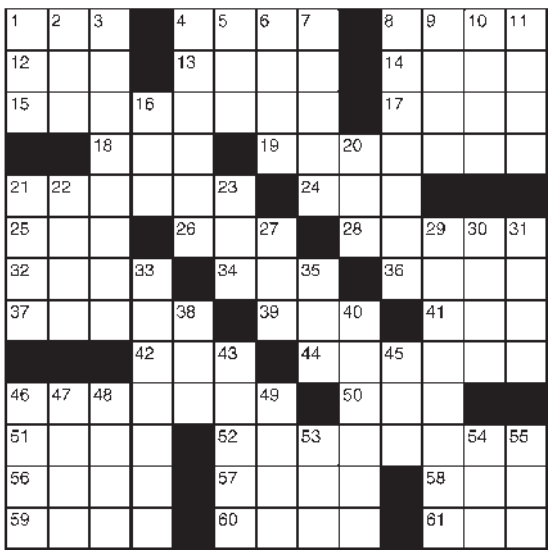
DOWN

1 Na Na lead-in
2 Nonstick spray
3 Electrical strength
4 Christie sleuth
5 Wall St. wheeler-dealer
6 Egyptian deity
7 Reluctant
8 Four-bagger
9 Air freshener target
10 Broad
11 Feeder filler
16 Fez, e.g.
20 "Dig in!"
21 Hay bundle
22 First victim
23 Opposing vote
27 Wrigley product
29 Training site
30 Exile isle
31 Picnic spoiler
33 Scale ranges
35 Chest muscle
38 Lean- — (sheds)
40 Baby's toy
43 Letter before iota
45 Fragrant tree
46 Must have
47 Inter —
48 See to
49 Skater's leap
53 — -de-France
54 Chinese chairman
55 Prof's degree

Solution time: 24 mins.

D	A	M		F			N	D		B	I	N	G
A		E		I	D	E	A			U	S	E	R
T	E	T		G	O	D	F	A	T	H	E	R	
E	X	A		T				T	A	T			
				E	R	S	I			H	O	M	E
S	T	A	G	E	M	C	M			N	O	N	E
E	R	S		E	U	R	O	S		L	Y	E	
W	A	T	T		G	R	A	N	D	D	A	D	
S	P	I	E	S		E	T	E	S				
			C	A	U			C	T	H	A	N	
D	E	N	M	C		H	E	R		E	N	O	
O	G	F	F		F	A	V	F		M	A	R	
G	O	O	D		S	H	A	D		P	G	A	

Yesterday's answer 4-4



STUMPED? For answers to today's crossword, call **1-900-226-5955**! 99¢ per minute, touch-tone/rotary phones. (18+ only.) A King Features service, NYC.

CELEBRITIES BORN ON THIS DAY: Robert Downey Jr., 54; David Cross, 55; Christine Lahti, 69; Craig T. Nelson, 75.

Happy Birthday: Put your emotional energy to good use this year. It's better to build physical strength through fitness and healthy living and to avoid confrontations with individuals who are trying to use you. Maintain a clear head and a fit body that will help you overcome adversity. Caution and strategy will help you reach your goal. Your numbers are 4, 18, 24, 28, 32, 36, 40.

ARIES *(March 21-April 19):* Keep your emotions steady and your eyes on what's going on around you. Look at the big picture in order to see how to handle anyone who gives you a hard time. Stick to your standards and goals. ✪✪✪

TAURUS *(April 20-May 20):* Follow through and finish what you start without making a big deal or letting others in on your plans prematurely. What you accomplish will give you greater insight into how to build momentum and carry on. ✪✪✪

GEMINI *(May 21-June 20):* Make changes for the right reason. If you listen to someone else, you are likely to end up making a mistake. Be resourceful, and come up with your own plan. Do your own thing, and walk away from anyone trying to interfere. ✪✪✪✪

CANCER *(June 21-July 22):* Take a close look at what others are doing to see if there is something you can learn or gain if you participate. Time is precious, so use it wisely. Time spent with someone you love will be enlightening. ✪✪

LEO *(July 23-Aug. 22):* Make plans to do something new. Taking a day trip, making a personal change or checking out the possibility of a position or business opportunity that can improve your life will encourage you to expand your knowledge, experience and connections. ✪✪✪✪✪

VIRGO *(Aug. 23-Sept. 22):* Draw on experience, and follow the path that encourages better relationships and doing things that bring you joy. Life changes will be enlightening and offer insight into new ways to swap what's not working for what will. ✪✪✪

LIBRA *(Sept. 23-Oct. 22):* Emotions will be close to the surface, making it important to keep busy and to get into something you enjoy doing. The less time you have, the easier it will be to avoid someone who tends to be critical. ✪✪✪

SCORPIO *(Oct. 23-Nov. 21):* Size up what you like about your life, the way you look and the people you associate with, and make some subtle adjustments. Love and romance are featured and will promote a healthy relationship. ✪✪✪

SAGITTARIUS *(Nov. 22-Dec. 21):* Spend more time at home. Set up a personal space dedicated to doing something you enjoy. Don't let anyone use your talents for his or her benefit. If you are too trusting, someone will take advantage of you. ✪✪✪✪✪

EUGENIA LAST

THE LAST WORD IN ASTROLOGY

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CAPRICORN *(Dec. 22-Jan. 19):* Control your emotions in order to bypass an altercation with someone close to you. Getting along will be half the battle, and an easy-going attitude and staying focused on doing your own thing are preferable. Personal physical improvement is favored. ✪✪

AQUARIUS *(Jan. 20-Feb. 18):* Consider ways to bring in more cash. An idea you have or a talent you want to develop can lead to a new enterprise. Clear a space at home to work toward your goal. A personal improvement plan is encouraged. ✪✪✪✪

PISCES *(Feb. 19-March 20):* Look past what's going on around you. Take the initiative to start something new. A day trip or educational pursuit will lead to ideas that can help you move in a different direction. Personal gain is heading your way. ✪✪✪

Birthday Baby: You are energetic, impressionable and adaptable. You are outgoing and trusting.

To submit astrological questions to the "Dear Eugenia" column, visit Eugenialast.com, or join Eugenia on Twitter/Facebook/LinkedIn.

SUDOKU

Conceptis Sudoku *By Dave Green*

4		9			5			
			2		3	6		
7				8			1	
	4						5	8
		1				4		
3	8						2	
	3			6				9
		2	3		4			
			5			8		4

Difficulty Level ★★★ 4/04

Sudoku is a number-placing puzzle based on a 9x9 grid with several given numbers. The object is to place the numbers 1 to 9 in the empty squares so that each row, each column and each 3x3 box contains the same number only once. The difficulty level of the Conceptis Sudoku increases from Monday to Saturday.

Yesterday's Answer

5	8	6	9	4	7	3	1	2
3	1	9	6	2	8	7	5	4
7	2	4	5	3	1	8	6	9
2	4	1	3	7	9	5	8	6
6	3	5	1	8	2	4	9	7
9	7	8	4	5	6	1	2	3
8	9	7	2	1	3	6	4	5
4	6	3	8	9	5	2	7	1
1	5	2	7	6	4	9	3	8

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WONDERWORD®

By DAVID OUELLET

HOW TO PLAY: All the words listed below appear in the puzzle — horizontally, vertically, diagonally and even backward. Find them, circle each letter of the word and strike it off the list. The leftover letters spell the WONDERWORD.

RESTRICTED AREAS **Solution: 12 letters**

B	C	E	R	U	C	E	S	S	Y	C	I	L	O	P
L	O	L	N	Y	Z	C	E	S	F	L	I	G	H	T
O	N	U	P	O	T	O	N	E	I	N	S	Ⓢ	F	Y
C	F	R	N	R	D	E	I	C	C	T	Ⓣ	F	W	T
K	I	E	A	D	O	N	F	C	E	Ⓞ	A	O	M	I
F	N	V	R	U	A	H	A	A	Ⓟ	T	R	C	R	R
R	E	T	A	W	T	R	I	B	S	R	G	O	A	U
L	A	N	U	R	A	H	Y	B	A	N	T	N	L	C
I	I	F	C	C	E	R	O	N	I	I	P	T	A	E
M	R	T	O	E	T	G	N	R	S	T	R	R	L	S
I	S	M	A	R	G	I	N	I	I	S	O	O	E	I
T	P	I	U	O	B	N	V	A	N	Z	T	L	R	G
I	A	O	N	O	T	I	C	E	D	G	E	I	T	N
M	C	A	M	E	R	A	D	E	P	O	C	S	X	S
E	E	R	E	D	R	O	B	C	A	P	T	I	V	E

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Abandon, Access, Airspace, Alarm, Alert, Authorize, Block, Border, Boundary, Camera, Captive, Confine, Control, Court, Danger, Exits, Fence, Fines, Flight, Forbid, Limit, Margin, Narrow, Notice, Policy, Prohibit, Protect, Ring, Rule, Safety, Scope, Secure, Security, Signs, Specify, Staff, Stop, Time, Travel, Visitor, Warning, Water, Zone

Yesterday's Answer: Marty Funkhouser

The NEW Volume 56 can be purchased online at: www.WonderWordBooks.com, or call 1-800-642-6480.

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Saipan Tribune also offers a complete 5-day run of liner ads, for as low as $15 for garage sales, apartment rentals, help wanted, auto and more. You can choose from any of the packages below.

ADS

- 3-Liner **$15**
- 5-Liner **$24**

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Classified Ads

Ads must be submitted before 12 noon 2 days prior to publication date

CANCELLATION

Classified Ads

Cancellations should be made before 12 noon of the day prior to date of publication.

REFUNDS

Refunds will only be made if cancellation deadlines are met. No refunds will be made once ad is already printed.

CHECK YOUR ADS

Saipan Tribune will not be responsible for errors after the first day of publication. Errors should be called in before noon of the issue date. *Saipan Tribune* reserves the right to place ads under proper headings and to revise copy when necessary.

ADVERTISING POLICY

All advertising in the *Saipan Tribune* are subject to applicable rate sheet, copies of which are available from the Advertising Sales Department (please call 235-8747, 235-2769 or 235-6397). All ads will be subject to approval prior to publication. We reserve the right to edit, refuse, reject or cancel any ad at any time. Also, *Saipan Tribune* reserves the right to place ads under proper headings and to revise copy when necessary.

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Find today's solution in classified section

Harper homers in DC return, Phils beat Nats

WASHINGTON (AP)— Bryce Harper crushed a long home run for his third hit while performing to jeers in his return to Washington, and the Philadelphia Phillies beat the Nationals 8-2 Tuesday night for the franchise's best start in over a century.

Maikel Franco also homered for the Phillies, baseball's only undefeated team at 4-0. They had only done that in 1915 and 1897.

Harper left Washington after playing 927 games over seven years, participating in six All-Star Games and winning the 2015 NL MVP Award. He listened to what the Nationals had to offer, then signed a $330 million, 13-year contract with the rival Phillies in February.

Harper hasn't wasted any time providing returns for the investment. He has three homers and five RBIs in four games, along with a .429 batting average. He drove in three Tuesday.

Booed during every at-bat, Harper thumped a "take that," 458-foot shot in the eighth inning off Jeremy Hellickson. As the ball soared toward the second deck in right field, Harper flipped his bat and circled the bases with delight before celebrating with his new teammates in the visiting dugout.

AP

Philadelphia Phillies' Bryce Harper, left, celebrates his RBI hit while on second base with Washington Nationals second baseman Brian Dozier during the sixth inning of a baseball game at Nationals Park, Tuesday, April 2, 2019, in Washington.

Diamondbacks 8, Padres 5

In San Diego, Zack Greinke hit a career-best two homers and struck out 10 in six innings to rebound from a rocky opening day, and Arizona beat San Diego in a wild game that included an unusual batter's interference call on Manny Machado.

Greinke (1-1) allowed two homers to Hunter Renfroe but was otherwise stellar. He was backed by homers from John Ryan Murphy, Ketel Marte and Christian Walker. Wil Myers also went deep for San Diego.

Machado was called out in the sixth inning after dropping his bat near Murphy while the Diamondbacks catcher tried to catch a popup, a disputed decision that led to Padres manager Andy Green's ejection.

Athletics 1, Red Sox 0

In Oakland, Mike Fiers gave Oakland another stellar start, center fielder Ramon Laureano threw out a baserunner for a second straight game and the Athletics made Matt Chapman's homer stand in a win over Chris Sale and Boston.

Fiers (2-1) pitched six innings of five-hit ball. Oakland starters have allowed just one run over 36 innings in the last six games since the team returned from an 0-2 trip to Tokyo. The A's have won four straight and five of six.

Dodgers 6, Giants 5

In Los Angeles, Cody Bellinger hit a grand slam off Madison Bumgarner (0-2) in the third inning, the sixth consecutive game Los Angeles has homered in to start the season.

The Dodgers have slugged 17 homers so far, tied with the Seattle Mariners for most in the majors. They matched the franchise record for homers in six straight games to start a season, set by the 1954 Brooklyn Dodgers.

Mariners 2, Angels 1

In Seattle, Marco Gonzales pitched into the ninth inning after Dan Vogelbach hit a tiebreaking homer in the eighth, lifting Seattle over Los Angeles to move to 7-1 for the first time in franchise history.

Gonzales (3-0) was hoping to pitch the first complete game in baseball this season, but a one-out walk to Mike Trout and a single to center by Andrelton Simmons ended his night.

Tigers 3, Yankees 1

In New York, Dustin Peterson laced a tiebreaking double off Aroldis Chapman in the ninth inning for his first major league hit, and Detroit beat New York.

Joe Jiménez (1-0) worked a hitless eighth and ended the inning with an unassisted double play after snagging Gleyber Torres' line drive and jogging to first base himself.

Shane Greene tossed a 1-2-3 ninth for his third save.

Brewers 4, Reds 3

In Cincinnati, Orlando Arcia ended his season-opening slump with a three-run homer and Milwaukee extended its domination of Cincinnati.

Milwaukee has won the first two games of the series and 15 of 21 against Cincinnati over the last two seasons. The defending NL Central champions are off to a 5-1 start, one game better than a year ago when they tied the club record with 96 wins.

Arcia was 0 for 16 when he connected off Michael Lorenzen , who was brought in to face the shortstop with two outs in the sixth inning after left-hander Zach Duke (1-1) gave up a walk and a single.

Orioles 2, Blue Jays 1

In Toronto, Andrew Cashner pitched six shutout innings, and Baltimore extended its a road winning streak to four for the first time since 2016 before another small crowd at Rogers Centre.

Jonathan Villar had two hits and scored once for the Orioles, who improved to 4-1. Coming off a 115-loss season, the Orioles opened by winning two of three at the New York Yankees. They strung together four road wins for the first time since July 5-16, 2016, at the Los Angeles Dodgers and Tampa Bay.

Rays 4, Rockies 0

In St. Petersburg, Blake Snell matched a career high with 13 strikeouts, pitching seven innings of two-hit ball to lift Tampa Bay over Colorado for its fifth straight win.

The AL Cy Young Award winner struck out six straight during one stretch, helping Tampa Bay improve to a franchise-best 5-1. Snell (1-1) rebounded splendidly after allowing five runs in an opening day loss to Houston.

Mets 6, Marlins 5

In Miami, Amed Rosario hit a two-run double in New York's five-run first inning against Jose Urena (0-2) and started a game-ending double play.

Wilson Ramos and Dominic Smith each had two hits and an RBI for the Mets, who improved to 4-1 for the second straight year. Jason Vargas (1-0) allowed two runs in five innings in his season debut. The Marlins went 1 for 10 with runners in scoring position against him.

Rangers 6, Astros 4

In Arlington, Joey Gallo grounded a hard single to right field between two diving infielders to drive in two runs and put Texas ahead to stay.

The Rangers (3-2) are over .500 for the second time this season in manager Chris Woodward's managerial debut. They never had a winning record at any point last year.

Rougned Odor started the seventh inning in a 4-4 game with a bunt single that was beyond the reach of lefty Framber Valdez (0-1) coming off the mound. Elvis Andrus had a double before Gallo pulled a hard one-out grounder that split between second baseman Jose Altuve and first baseman Yuli Gurriel.

Twins 5, Royals 4, 10 innings

In Kansas City, Nelson Cruz got a second chance and delivered a go-ahead single with two outs in the 10th inning, giving Minnesota a victory before Kansas City's smallest announced home crowd in eight years.

Cruz appeared to ground out against reliever Brad Boxberger (0-1) with runners on first and second when third base umpire James Hoye signaled his chopper fair. But plate umpire Mark Ripperger came in and signaled it was foul, and after the two umps visited it was Ripperger's call that stood. Cruz followed a couple pitches later with his third RBI of the game.

Wilson demands new deal from Seahawks

Seattle Seahawks quarterback Russell Wilson has given the franchise a deadline of April 15 by which he expects negotiations on a new contract to be completed, according to a report.

Wilson is set to enter the final season of his four-year, $87.6 million extension he signed back in the 2015 offseason. He's set to earn $17 million in base salary in 2019, and his $21.9 million average annual salary puts him at 12th in the NFL for quarterbacks behind players like Nick Foles of the Jaguars, Joe Flacco of the Broncos, and Alex Smith of the Redskins.

April 15 is the start of phase one of the Seahawks' offseason workout program, and participation is voluntary for the work. It's customary, however, for passers to be active and present for these sessions.

The report did not indicate what Wilson will do if the contract isn't executed by his desired date.

Wilson's lone option for the short term would be to sit out the voluntary sessions. If the standoff endures into the team's mandatory minicamps from June 11-13, Wilson could then threaten to hold out.

His comments at the end of Seattle's season, though, indicated he was not inclined to do so.

"Oh, yeah, if that's what I've got to do," Wilson said then of playing under his current deal. "It's business and everything else and I know essentially after this season I could potentially be a free agent, that kind of thing. I don't think that way—I see myself being in Seattle. I love Seattle, special place for me. I also understand it's a business world and everything else."

At the NFL annual meetings last week, head coach Pete Carroll said the Seahawks have "been in communication" with Wilson's camp and that they two sides are "on it."

If the Seahawks eventually do not come to terms for a new contract, they would have the option of placing the franchise tag on Wilson for 2020.

Westbrook records rare triple-double vs Lakers

OKLAHOMA CITY (AP)—With the outcome all but decided and just over a minute remaining, Oklahoma City Thunder coach Billy Donovan wanted to get Russell Westbrook out of Tuesday's game.

Westbrook wasn't having it, waving off Hamidou Diallo.

Moments later, Westbrook grabbed a rebound and nearly snagged another as the ball glanced off his fingertips after a miss.

On the next possession, Westbrook snagged a final rebound and joined some elite company in NBA history in the Thunder's 119-103 win over the Los Angeles Lakers.

Westbrook became only the second player in league history to have 20 or more points, rebounds and assists in a game, finishing with 20 points, 20 rebounds and 21 assists. Wilt Chamberlain was the only other player to accomplish the feat.

After the game, Westbrook dedicated the win to rapper Nipsey Hussle. The musician, like Westbrook a Los Angeles product, was shot and killed on Sunday in Los Angeles.

"I'm not going to try to put it into words but like I said on the floor, that's who it's for," Westbrook said. "I'm going to leave it at that."

Chamberlain set the lofty mark with 22 points, 25 rebounds and 21 assists in a 1968 game.

Westbrook also tied Chamberlain for second all-time in 15-point, 15-rebound, 15-assists games with eight. Oscar Robertson had 14 such games in his career.

Lakers coach Luke Walton said his team narrowed in on three keys to beat the Thunder, even with his own depleted lineup—transition defense, taking care of the ball and boxing out.

The Thunder outscored Los Angeles on the fast break 34-8, the Lakers turned the ball over 21 times and Oklahoma City won the rebounding battle 50-39.

"When they get what they got off of those three things, it's going to be really hard to win the game, even if you shoot the ball well like our guys shot tonight," Walton said.

The Lakers shot 47.6% from the field.

Thunder coach Billy Donovan said Westbrook explained the wave-off after the game.

"I knew that he had a close friend pass away," Donovan said. "For a few guys on our team relationship-wise, it's kind of hit them pretty hard just in the last couple days.

"For Russell, that was something that really, really meant a lot to him."

After Westbrook clinched the mark, grabbing the rebound on Lance Stephenson's miss in the final minute, he drew a large ovation from the crowd before leaving the game for Diallo.

Oklahoma City had struggled in the first half recently, trailing in eight consecutive games entering Tuesday.

The Thunder, despite leading by as many as 11 points early, looked to be heading toward another halftime deficit when Kentavious Caldwell-Pope put the Lakers ahead with a 3-pointer late in the second quarter.

But Oklahoma City closed the half with an 11-6 run and took a 59-55 lead into halftime.

Though Westbrook struggled from the field early—missing 12 of his first 14 shots—he was effective on the offensive end from the start, with 10 first-quarter assists.

"I tried to attack the paint," Westbrook said. "A lot of teams for me load the paint and stop me from getting to the paint, so I tried to use that to my advantage, drawing three or four people and finding open guys.

"I tried to set the tone early."

Westbrook finished 8 of 23 from the field as Oklahoma City won for the third time in its last 10 games.

Caldwell-Pope led the Lakers with 23 points.

The loss was Los Angeles' second in the last six games despite playing with a roster missing its stars.

AP

Oklahoma City Thunder guard Russell Westbrook (0) passes to a teammate between the Los Angeles Lakers guard Rajon Rondo (9) and center JaVale McGee (7) in the first half of an NBA basketball game Tuesday, April 2, 2019, in Oklahoma City.

Warriors 116, Nuggets 99

In Oakland, Kevin Durant emphatically showed who is still No. 1 in the West, delivering a pair of jarring dunks late in the first half and finishing with 21 points and six assists before being ejected to lead the Golden State past Denver in a matchup of the top teams in the conference.

DeMarcus Cousins had a season-best 28 points, on 12-for-17 shooting, 12 rebounds, five assists and two blocks for the Warriors (53-24), who have a two-game lead and the tiebreaker on Denver (51-26) with five games to go in the chase for the Western Conference's top seed and home-court advantage throughout the playoffs

Stephen Curry added 17 points, five rebounds and five assists.

Jamal Murray scored 17 points, and Paul Millsap had 11 points shooting 4 of 11 for Denver, which lost for the third time in four games and played the first night of a tough back-to-back with San Antonio visiting the Mile High City on Wednesday.

Spurs 117, Hawks 111

In San Antonio, DeMar DeRozan scored 29 points and San Antonio beat Atlanta for the 21st straight time at home.

San Antonio point guard Derrick White added 23 points after scoring 12 total points in his previous two games.

The Spurs remain seventh in the Western Conference at 45-33.

Atlanta led by as many as nine points in the second half, before San Antonio rallied in the fourth to avoid its second straight loss at home.

Kent Bazemore had 26 points to lead the Hawks, and Alex Len added 21.

Rockets 130, Kings 105

In Sacramento, James Harden had 36 points and 10 assists and Houston matched its season high with 26 3-pointers in a win over Sacramento.

Eric Gordon and Danuel House Jr. each scored 19 points, Kenneth Faried added 12 points and 11 rebounds, and P.J. Tucker scored 13. The Rockets have won 17 of 20.

Houston (50-28) moved a half-game ahead of idle Portland for third place in the Western Conference. It's the fifth time in the six years that the Rockets have had at least 50 victories.

Buddy Hield had 20 points and seven rebounds for Sacramento. The Kings (38-40) have lost four of six.

TRIBUNE SPORTS SCORES

NBA STANDINGS

EASTERN CONFERENCE

Atlantic Division

	W	L	Pct	GB
y-Toronto	55	23	.705	—
x-Philadelphia	49	28	.636	5.5
x-Boston	46	32	.590	9
Brooklyn	39	39	.500	16
New York	15	62	.195	39.5

Central Division

y-Milwaukee	58	20	.744	—
x-Indiana	46	32	.590	12
Detroit	39	38	.506	18.5
Chicago	21	57	.269	37
Cleveland	19	59	.244	39

Southeast Division

Miami	38	39	.494	—
Orlando	38	40	.487	0.5
Charlotte	35	42	.455	3
Washington	32	46	.410	6.5
Atlanta	28	50	.359	10.5

WESTER CONFERENCE

Pacific Division

x-Golden State	53	24	.688	—
x-LA Clippers	47	31	.603	6.5
Sacramento	38	40	.487	15.5
LA Lakers	35	43	.449	18.5
Phoenix	18	60	.231	35.5

Southwest Division

x-Houston	50	28	.641	—
x-San Antonio	45	33	.577	5
New Orleans	32	46	.410	18
Memphis	31	46	.403	18.5
Dallas	31	46	.403	18.5

Northwest Division

x-Denver	51	26	.662	—
x-Portland	49	28	.636	2
x-Utah	47	30	.610	4
x-Oklahoma City	45	33	.577	6.5
Minnesota	34	43	.442	17

x- clinched playoff spot
y- clinched division

BY THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

Match Play loss could be blessing for Woods

AUSTIN, Texas—Tiger Woods was steaming when he left Austin Country Club on Saturday, his pursuit of victory No. 81 on the PGA Tour coming to an abrupt and stunning end when he missed a 4-foot putt on the 85th and last hole he played in the WGC-Dell Technologies Match Play.

Instead of forcing extra holes in his quarterfinal match against Lucas Bjerregaard, the No. 52-ranked player in the world, Woods headed home to his Florida seaside compound. It was a bitter end to an otherwise solid week for Woods in his last competitive action before the Masters. Twenty-five minutes after he shook Bjerregaard's hand, Woods had yet to cool down.

"No, I'm not," Woods brusquely said when asked if he's where he wanted to be heading toward Magnolia Lane. "I wanted to play (Sunday). This is going to sting for a couple of days, and I'll get back to it after that."

Woods didn't say much more before heading to his transport, his competitive fire extinguishing any desire to talk about the state of his game or his confidence heading to the Masters.

But it could turn out that the surprising turn of events against Bjerregaard will be a blessing for the 43-year-old with a bad back who pulled out of the Arnold Palmer Invitational four weeks ago with a neck sprain.

The capital of Texas broke cold and windy on Sunday, with temps not reaching 50 until noon and the wind-chill roaming from the high-30s to the mid-40s. Not exactly ideal weather for a man nursing a bad back.

A victory in the semifinals and then a match in the finals could have meant 36 or more holes on the card for Woods, possibly stretching his total to 120 holes played in five days. Instead, Woods was home in Jupiter, where it was 80 degrees.

Thus, losing on Saturday meant he had 11 days to rest and prep for the Masters, where he's won four green jackets. Woods planned to go to Augusta for a day this week, head back home and then return to Augusta the Monday of the Masters.

MJD cruises past Pacific Postal

By ROBY N. PAMINTUAN
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CORRESPONDENT

The MJD Warriors hammered Pacific Postal Plus, 73-52, in the 2018 Emon Lodge No. 179 Brotherhood/IT&E Basketball League last Sunday at the Koblerville Gymnasium.

The Warriors relied on the momentum they built in the second quarter to set up the easy win.

MJD was on top by only 6 after the first period, 15-9, when it started pulling away in the second behind the 9 points of Alex Ocampo. Ben Lisua added 5 markers to lift MJD to a 37-22 halftime lead.

After the break, Jonathan Brocano and Gener Pineda stepped up for Pacific Postal to help cut the deficit to single digit, 40-49. Brocano did his damage in the paint and scored 8 points, while Pineda nailed two 3-pointers in a bid to bring Pacific Postal back in the game.

ROBY N. PAMINTUAN

MJD Warriors' Alex Ocampo pulls up for a short jumper during their game against Pacific Postal Plus in the Emon Lodge caging last Sunday at the Koblerville Gymnasium.

However, Pacific Postal failed to complete the comeback in the fourth quarter, as MJD regained its shooting touch and scored 20-plus points to cruise to victory.

Cellular Pro 69, Armatech 65

In the first game last weekend, Cellular Pro got off to a good start en route to downing Armatech.

Cell Pro's snipers found their targets early, as Gio Dancel, Jun Santos, and Sonny Ebuen combined for four treys. Ebuen posted 7 points, Santos sunk two triples, and Dancel chipped in 5 to give Cell Pro a 20-11 lead at the end of the first quarter. Although Armatech came within striking distance in the last three periods, Cell Pro hung on for the 4-point win.

Ebuen led Cell Pro with his 17 points, 9 of which came from the 3-point territory. Jun Alipio and Bruce Berline had 17 and 14 markers, respectively, in a losing effort for Armatech

Islander 79, PEGS 78

Islander Rent-A-Car came from behind to upend Pacific Engineering Groups & Services.

After facing a 54-62 deficit when the third quarter wrapped up, Islander Rent-A-Car fired 25 points in the final canto to to steal the win.

Elgen Mangali scored all his 9 points in the final canto from the parking lot, while Ed Pangelinan and Jet Jandoc tallied 4 markers apiece in the Islanders' successful comeback bid.

Mangali finished with 22 points, while Rocyl Ritual added 21, and Jandoc registered 17. Jack Lizama paced PEGS with his 25 markers, while Ron Gamboa contributed 24.

MJD 73—Aranda 14, Tabora 10, Ocampo 9, Ja. De Guzman 7, Lisua 7, Bisana 6, Jo. De Guzman 6, Mungcal 6, Dela Cruz 4, Usi 4.

PPP 52—Odicta 16, G. Pineda 16, Brocano 8, J. Pineda 6, Usi 6.

Scoring by quarters: 15-9, 37-22, 49-40, 73-52.

KANOA

From Page 28

vision, MP United outclassed TanHoldings, 3-1, to avenge its first round loss (3-5).

Three different players scored for MP United with Moshe Sikkel finding his target in the eighth minute and Kelly McCallion and William Sosa doing the same in the 17th and 45th, respectively. TanHoldings averted a shutout loss after getting a goal from Morico Claridades in the 58th minute.

BOYS U15 DIVISION
TanHoldings 6, Shirley's 3

TanHoldings moved up to third place in the team standings after downing Shirley's in the curtain-raiser.

It was a come-from-behind win for TanHoldings, as Shirley's was on top at the break, 3-1. Rakib Hassan made a pair for Shirley's, while Gabriel Arkoh nailed the other goal for the squad in the first half before it collapsed in the second.

Mark Joseph Roque tallied TanHoldings' only goal in the first half and added one more in the second, while four of his teammates also did their share in the comeback. Lowell Manalang, Kohtaro Goto, Oliver Fajardo, and Mark Joshua Roque scored in the 37th, 41st, 46th, and 52nd minute, respectively.

ROSELYN B. MONROYO

MP United Football Club's Kelly McCallion, right, is closely guarded by a TanHoldings FC player during their co-ed U12A division game in the 2019 NMIFA Spring Youth League last Saturday at the NMI Soccer Training Center in Koblerville.

Matansa 12, Kanoa-2 1

Matansa made it to the win column after routing Kanoa-2.

Jose Rafael Lopez and Xun Wen Jin teamed up in Matansa's demolition of the hapless Kanoa-2 after firing four goals apiece. Maui Johnson, Alex and Philip Megino, and Chan Yang Woo registered one goal apiece for the winning squad., while Allen Choi handed Kanoa-2 its only goal in the lopsided match.

Kanoa-1 3, MP United 1

Kanoa won the battle of the Top 2 teams and kept its perfect record in the division after prevailing against MP United.

Jaydee Jose powered Kanoa-1 to its fifth win in as many games after scoring in the 48th and 58th minute.

Earlier in the 14th minute, Andrew Sablan found the back of the net to put Kanoa on top at the break, while Richard Steele broke MPU's silence with his shot in the 40th.

BOYS U18 DIVISION
Kanoa 3, U15 NT 1

Kanoa also triumphed in the second boys U18 match last Friday.

Andruw Omelau earned two goals to lift Kanoa to victory over the CNMI U15 Boys National Team. Sebastian Manabat posted the other goal for Kanoa, which got its first win of the season.

The CNMI U15 Boys National Team's only goal in the game was courtesy of Jim Maniago and the squad is still winless this season.

Matansa 4, TanHoldings 1

Matansa climbed to second place in the standings after defeating erstwhile leader TanHoldings.

Romel Mendoza gained two goals, while Jether Yobech and Raffy Lee chipped in one apiece for Matansa's third victory.

TanHoldings was stuck to two wins and dropped to third spot, as only Mark Esalan scored last weekend.

NMIFA Spring Youth League Standings
(As of March 30, 2019)

CO-ED U12 DIVISION

Teams	G	W	D	L	GF	GA	GD	PTS
Kanoa	5	5	0	0	42	5	37	15
MP United	5	3	0	2	18	19	-1	9
TanHoldings	5	2	0	3	17	20	-3	6
Shirley's	5	0	0	5	4	37	-33	0

BOYS U15 DIVISION

Kanoa-1	5	5	0	0	42	3	39	15
MP United	5	4	0	1	22	4	18	12
TanHoldings	5	3	0	2	19	13	6	9
Shirley's	5	2	0	3	12	23	-11	6
Matansa	5	1	0	4	12	19	-7	3
Kanoa-2	5	0	0	5	5	50	-45	0

BOYS U18 DIVISION

MP United	4	4	0	0	22	2	20	12
Matansa	4	3	0	1	10	8	2	9
TanHoldings	4	2	0	2	12	9	3	6
Kanoa	4	1	0	3	7	21	-14	3
U15NT	4	0	0	4	2	13	-11	0

GCA

From Page 28

Daproza was then silent in the second period, leaving Lerio to shoulder the Eagles' offense, as the latter scored all of GCA's 5 points. Borja and Miles Timmons combined for the 5 markers of SCS, as the Tsunamis still found themselves behind at the break and fell on an even deeper hole when the game resumed, allowing GCA to walk away with a 20-point winning margin.

Meanwhile, Agape was also off to a strong start as proven in their lopsided victory over SIS.

Four Agape players finished in double figures with Eason Tang and Jordan Miao scoring 14 apiece and David Zheng and Antonio Li adding 12 and 11 markers, respectively. Danny Lee led the way for the Geckos with his 10 points.

Good debut for NMIS

Northern Marianas International School competes in the private school league for the first time and started on the right foot after defeating Seventh Day Adventist School, 22-16, at the latter's court in Chalan Kiya.

Eddie Valdoz led the way for the Phoenix after firing 14 points, while J.P. Pineda added 4 markers. Kaito Rechucher top-scored for SDA with his 6 points.

Games in the middle school division will continue today with Agape hosting a double-header (boys and girls) against GCA. Over at the Koblerville Gymnasium, Mt. Carmel School's girls and boys squads will be locking horns with SDA. Then at the SIS court in As Lito, the Geckos will be taking on the Phoenix.

GCA 40—Daproza 15, Lerio 13, Alepuyo 4, Castro 2, Ja. Du 2, Ju. Du 2, Yumul 2.

SCS 20—McDonald 12, Borja 6, Timmons 2.

Scoring by quarters: 9-3, 14-8, 32-11, 40-20.

8

From Page 28

opportunity to get pool time is important. In addition to racing, it is always great to catch up with the fellow swimmers in our region," said Winkfield.

In Palau, more than 40 swimmers from the host island, CNMI (including Tsunami Saipan members), Marshall Islands, and Pohnpei will be competing in the four-day event.

Winkfield added that the off-island tournament will help boost the morale of their swimmers, which are definitely affected by the Marpi pool shutdown.

"Much like Yutu (Super Typhoon Yutu that hit Saipan and Tinian late last year), initially the trauma had us running on adrenaline. Now, we are trying to make the reality functional, so we can move on and improve. The most difficult part of dealing with the pool closure is not physical, but the psychological. Moral is low, making events like this important so the swimmers don't loose motivation. That has been the most difficult aspect for the coaches," Winkfield said.

Despite these challenges, the SSC coach is happy and proud that their swimmers are staying in the program.

"In spite of the difficult year the swimmers have had, they have persevered and continued to work. Keep up the hard work guys, you are the reason that the club will last another 45 years," Winkfield said.

Bike Leg of 30th Tagaman Triathlon

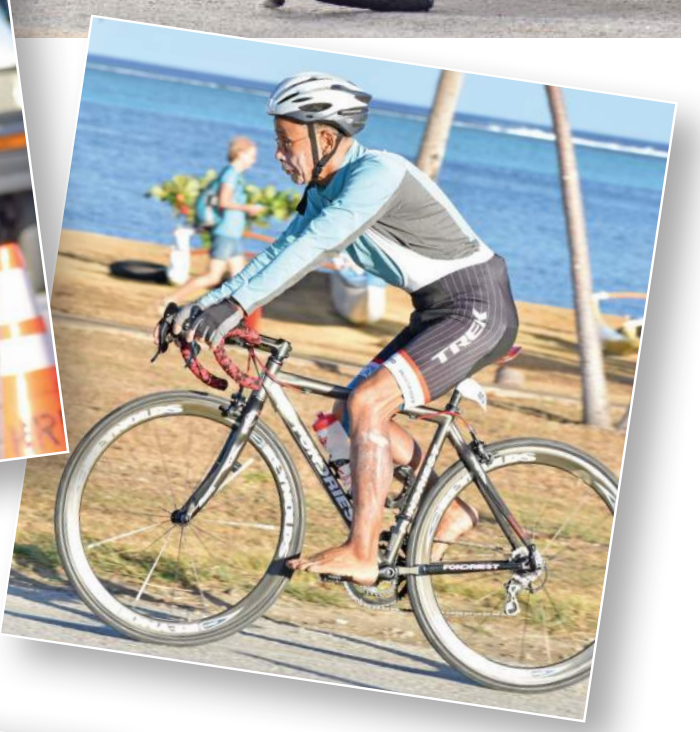
PHOTOS By ROSELYN B. MONROYO

Tyce Mister keeps a steady pace as he heads north during the bike leg of last Saturday's 30th Tagaman Triathlon.

Willy Barbo leads Nap Dizon on their way up north via Beach Road.

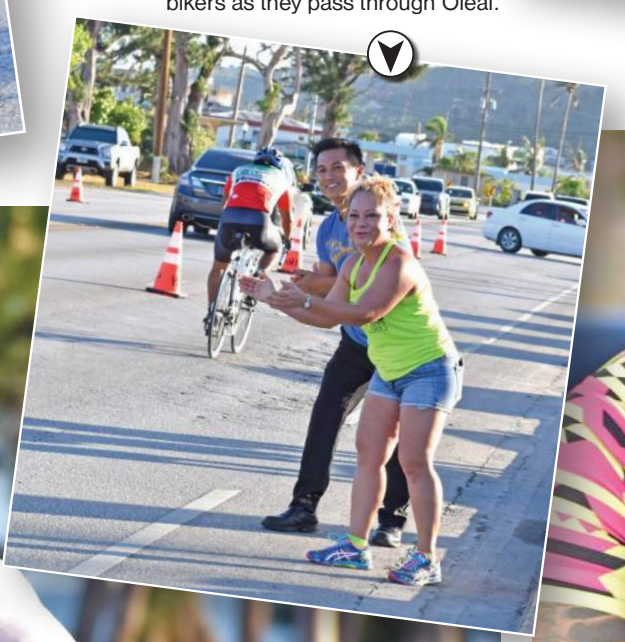
Tamio Club's Kimiko McKagan takes a breather after completing the lung-busting bike race, while Kosuke Sato puts on the strap timer before heading out to the run course.

Colin Thompson acknowledges the crowd cheering for him.



Chang Wang Jang bikes barefoot.

T Galleria's Milan Rabold heads out of the bike loop.



Saipan residents cheer on the bikers as they pass through Oleai.

Andrew Estepa concentrates, as he passes through the busy road in Susupe.

Harper homers in DC return, Phils beat Nats

PAGE 24

Saipan Tribune
Sports

Westbrook records rare triple-double vs Lakers

PAGE 25

8 SSC swimmers return to action

By ROSELYN B. MONROYO
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REPORTER

Eight Saipan Swim Club members left Saipan yesterday to race in the Inaugural Micronesian Swimming Championships in Palau.

Brothers Jinnosuke and Lennosuke Suzuki, sisters Jinju and Jinie Thompson, Taiyo Akimaru, Sophia Gauran, Savita Sikkel, and David Boyer will be competing in their first swimming tournament since the closure of the Kan Pacific Swimming Pool in Marpi in October last year. Joining the group are coach Jacoby Winkfield, assistant coach Sarah Vander Wal, and SSC co-founder Bill Sakovich, who will be a guest of honor in the regional event that will kick off today and run until April 7.

Winkfield said the competition in Palau will serve as a warmup for SSC swimmers who will also race in the 2019 Pacific Games in Samoa and the World Championships in Korea this summer.

"The goal in the meet is to get a feeling for the pool again. SSC has not swum in a pool in five months and while swimming is swimming, swimming in the pool and ocean are different. Several of our swimmers may be participating in Pacific Games and World Championships this summer and the

See 8 on Page 26

CONTRIBUTED PHOTO
Saipan Swim Club co-founder Bill Sakovich, second left back row, joins SSC swimmers and coaches for a group photo at the departure area of the Francisco C. Ada/Saipan International Airport yesterday before they leave for Palau to compete in the Inaugural Micronesian Swimming Championships.

GCA, Agape win openers

By ROBY N. PAMINTUAN
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CORRESPONDENT

ROBY N. PAMINTUAN
Grace Christian Academy's Ryan Daproza slips past Saipan Community School defenders for an open layup during their opening game in the middle school division of the CCOPSA caging yesterday at the GCA court in Navy Hill.

Grace Christian Academy and Agape Christian School triumphed in their season debuts in the 2018-2019 Commonwealth Coalition of Private Schools Association Middle School Basketball League yesterday.

The Eagles routed Saipan Community School, 40-20, at their home court in Navy Hill, while host Agape also crushed Saipan International School, 70-20.

GCA led right from the get-go and broke away in the third quarter to double-up the Tsunamis.

Ahead by only 6 at the break, 14-8, the Eagles exploded for 18 points in the penultimate frame to open a 32-11 advantage. GCA pulled away behind Ryan Daproza and Lance Lerio's hot hands, as they logged 8 and 6 markers, respectively. The Eagles also turned it up on the defensive end, as they contained the Tsunamis to just one field goal.

The Eagles went on to keep their double-digit spread in the fourth quarter despite resting their starters in that period. SCS made up for its 3-point output in the third frame by getting all its 9 markers from Charlie McDonald.

Earlier in the first canto, Daproza scored 7 points, while his fellow team captain, Lerio, knocked in two free throws in GCA's 9-3 advantage. Miles Borja nailed SCS' lone basket in the opening canto and his triple was countered by Daproza's conversion from beyond the arc.

See GCA on Page 26

Kanoa stays clean; MPU triumphs

By ROSELYN B. MONROYO
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REPORTER

Kanoa Football Club crushed Shirley's FC, while MP United FC got back at TanHoldings FC in the co-ed U12A division games in the 2019 NMIFA Spring Youth League last Saturday at the NMI Soccer Training Center.

Kanoa eased its way to a 9-1 triumph over the winless Shirley's to remain undefeated after five matches in the three-round robin competition.

Paul Lizama jumpstarted Kanoa's juggernaut after drilling three consecutive goals in the first half. He scored in the third, ninth, and 16th minute, while Isaiah Chargualaf and Taehun Han's conversion in the 21st and 23rd, respectively, handed Kanoa a 5-1 halftime lead. Shirley's drew its lone goal in the match from Jayvin Bisek, who hit the board in the 12th minute, while Kanoa was not done yet despite dominating the first half after delivering four more goals in the second. Tyler Omelau contributed a pair, while Han and Izeah Jolo chipped in one each.

In the other game in the di-

See KANOA on Page 26

ROSELYN B. MONROYO
Kanoa Football Club-1's Rigel Devey kicks the ball during the second half of their co-ed U12A division game in the 2019 NMIFA Spring Youth League last Saturday at the NMI Soccer Training Center in Koblerville.